

*"Revels in classic super-hero spectacle." - But Why Tho?*

# THE AVENGERS



JDD  
GURU

MacKAY  
VILLA  
MORTARINO  
BLEE

## BLOOD HUNT

**MARVEL**



# THE AVENGERS

## BLOOD HUNT







**THE STAR**  
CAPTAIN MARVEL



**THE ICON**  
CAPTAIN AMERICA



**THE WITCH**  
SCARLET WITCH



**THE CONSTRUCT**  
THE VISION



**THE GOD**  
THOR



**THE ENGINEER**  
IRON MAN



**THE KING**  
BLACK PANTHER

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AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT — ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN. TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

# THE AVENGERS

THE ANTI-MUTANT ORGANIZATION ORCHIS VOWED TO EXTERMINATE ALL MUTANTS, BEGINNING WITH A DEVASTATING ATTACK ON THE X-MEN AT THEIR ANNUAL HELLFIRE GALA. THE AVENGERS HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS TO AID THEIR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN THE X-MEN, MANY OF WHOM WERE EITHER KILLED OR ARE NOW ON THE RUN. BUT IRON MAN, WHO IS OVERSEEING THE OPERATION, HAS BEEN WAITING FOR THE PERFECT MOMENT TO MAKE THEIR MOVE...

## BLOOD HUNT

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AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY







**THEN.  
THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY.**

TONY?  
YOU HAVE THE  
FLOOR.

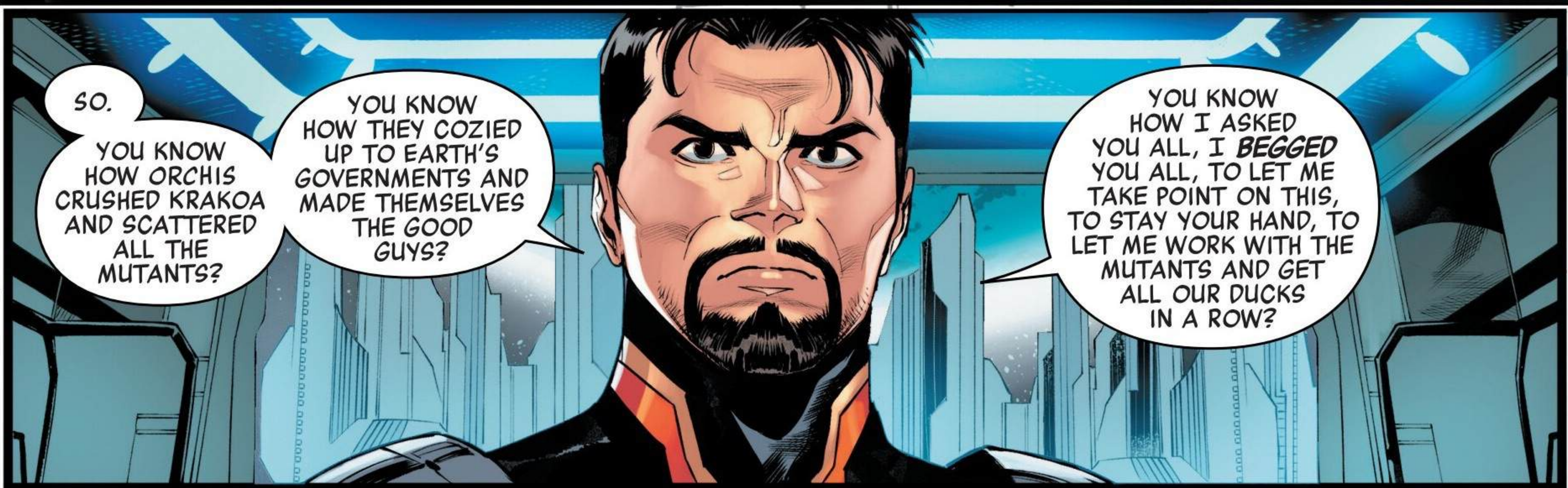


SO.

YOU KNOW  
HOW ORCHIS  
CRUSHED KRAKOA  
AND SCATTERED  
ALL THE  
MUTANTS?

YOU KNOW  
HOW THEY COZIED  
UP TO EARTH'S  
GOVERNMENTS AND  
MADE THEMSELVES  
THE GOOD  
GUYS?

YOU KNOW  
HOW I ASKED  
YOU ALL, I **BEGGED**  
YOU ALL, TO LET ME  
TAKE POINT ON THIS,  
TO STAY YOUR HAND, TO  
LET ME WORK WITH THE  
MUTANTS AND GET  
ALL OUR DUCKS  
IN A ROW?



HOW  
THEY TOOK  
MY TECHNOLOGY  
AND BUILT  
SENTINELS  
WITH IT?

YOU KNOW HOW  
I ASKED YOU TO WAIT  
FOR THE WORD, TO WAIT  
UNTIL I SAID "GO" BEFORE  
THE **AVENGERS** PUNCHED  
BACK?



WELL.

THE DUCKS  
ARE IN A ROW. AND  
I'M SAYING IT NOW,  
SO WE CAN ALL  
HEAR IT:





"GO."



**AVENGERS  
TARGET ONE:  
ORCHIS AUTOMATED  
SENTINEL FACTORY  
COMPLEX.  
MERLE, ALASKA.**



# ORCHIS BASE "JUNO."

--TELL ME,  
WHAT IS YOUR  
PURPOSE HERE,  
GARRETT?!

I RUN  
ORCHIS' AVENGERS  
DESK, M.O.D.O.K.

THE JOB  
YOU HIRED  
ME FOR.

AND  
THE NAME'S  
3-D MAN.

AND I TOLD  
YOU--THE  
AVENGERS  
WEREN'T GOING  
TO TAKE OUR  
OPERATIONS  
LYING DOWN.

BUT YOU  
SAID MY OLD  
TEAM WAS  
INSIGNIFICANT.

IN  
COMPARISON TO  
KRAKOA?

KRAKOA WAS  
A NATION, AND WE  
BROKE THEM. THE  
AVENGERS AREN'T  
EVEN A ROGUE  
STATE.

HIDING  
OUT IN ORBIT.  
INSIGNIFICANT.

"YOUR 'INSIGNIFICANTS'  
JUST TOTALED A SENTINEL  
FACTORY COMPLEX IN ALASKA IN  
LESS THAN TWENTY MINUTES."

YOU HIRED ME  
BECAUSE I CAN  
SEE THINGS THAT  
NO ONE ELSE CAN.  
THE DANGERS  
HIDDEN IN PLAIN  
SIGHT.

I SAW THE  
SKRULLS. I SAW  
THE MUTANTS.

AND I'VE  
BEEN TELLING  
YOU:



"THE AVENGERS  
ARE DANGEROUS."



OKAY.

TARGET ONE  
IS DOWN, THE A.I.  
CORES ARE CURRENTLY  
**SCRAP METAL**. THEY  
KNOW WE'RE COMING  
FOR THEM NOW.

WE'RE IN  
CANADIAN AIRSPACE--  
LOOKS LIKE DEPARTMENT H  
HAVE TASKED A FLIGHT  
OF **BOX SENTINELS**  
TO INTERCEPT.



I WAS *HOPING*  
TO SEE SOME OF  
THEM UP CLOSE.  
MAYBE WE COULD  
MIX IT UP A  
LITTLE.

UNLIKELY.

OUR OPERATION  
HINGES ON US MOVING  
TOO QUICKLY FOR ORCHIS  
TO EFFECTIVELY  
RESPOND.



FEAR  
NOT,  
TONY.

WE WILL  
HAVE A **SURFEIT**  
OF SENTINELS IN  
DUE TIME.



GOT THAT  
RIGHT.

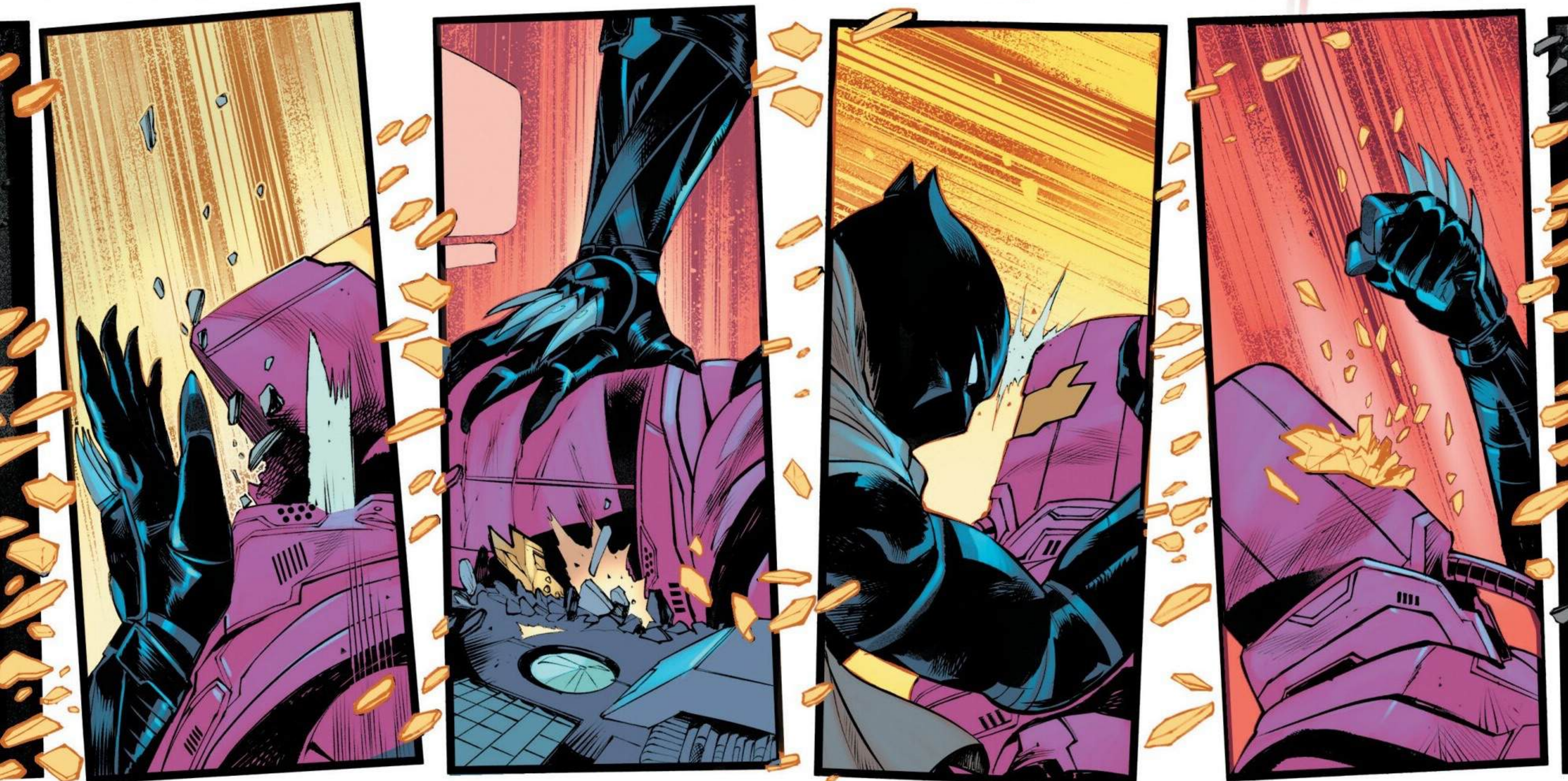
CITY,  
BRING US  
HOME.

**MIGHTY  
AVENGERS  
TO SECRET  
AVENGERS:**





**AVENGERS TARGET TWO:  
ORCHIS MUTANT RE-EDUCATION CENTER A-32.  
OKLAHOMA.**







I HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE DETENTION CENTER'S SYSTEMS. I'VE DISABLED THE PRISONERS' CONTROL COLLARS.

THAT WAS QUICK.

HARDLY. MY VIRUSES HAVE BEEN AT WORK FOR MONTHS.

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THAT, T'CHALLA.



THERE ARE MANY THINGS I DON'T TELL YOU, CAROL.

CITY, PREPARE FOR VISITORS, PLEASE.



HELLO. THIS IS THE BLACK PANTHER.

THE AVENGERS HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF THIS FACILITY. PLEASE PREPARE FOR EVACUATION VIA TELEPORTATION.



BACK TO YOUR CELLS! BACK--



WHA N EGG





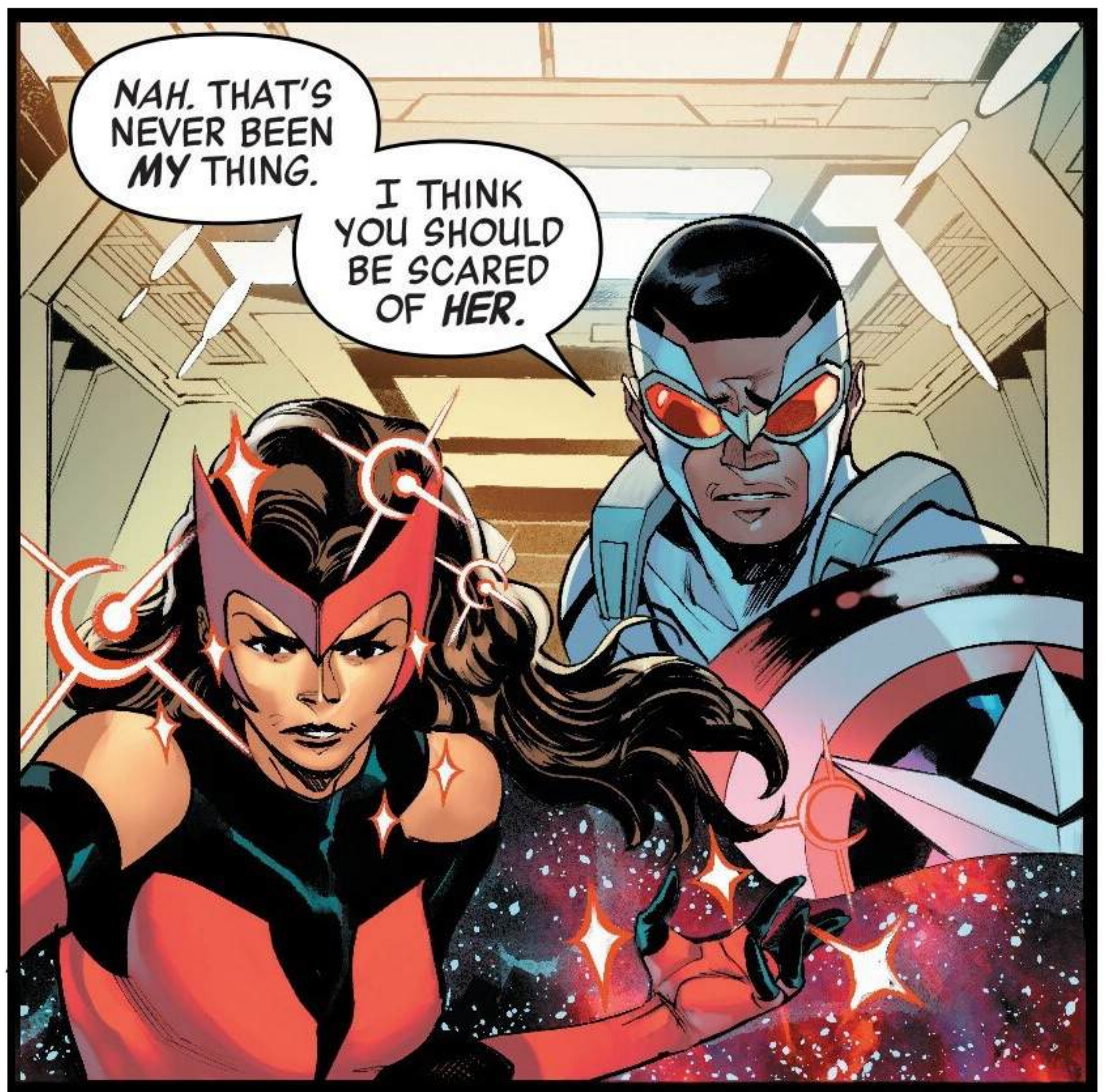
ONE WARNING.

PUT DOWN THE GUNS, AND LET ALL THESE NICE PEOPLE COME WITH US.



YOU'VE JUST GOT A SHIELD, AND WE'VE GOT GUNS.

YOU THINK WE'RE SCARED OF YOU?



NAH. THAT'S NEVER BEEN MY THING.

I THINK YOU SHOULD BE SCARED OF HER.



AND HIM.







"ONLY  
THREE."

"NOT PARTICULARLY  
FAIR FOR  
ORCHIS, IS IT?"



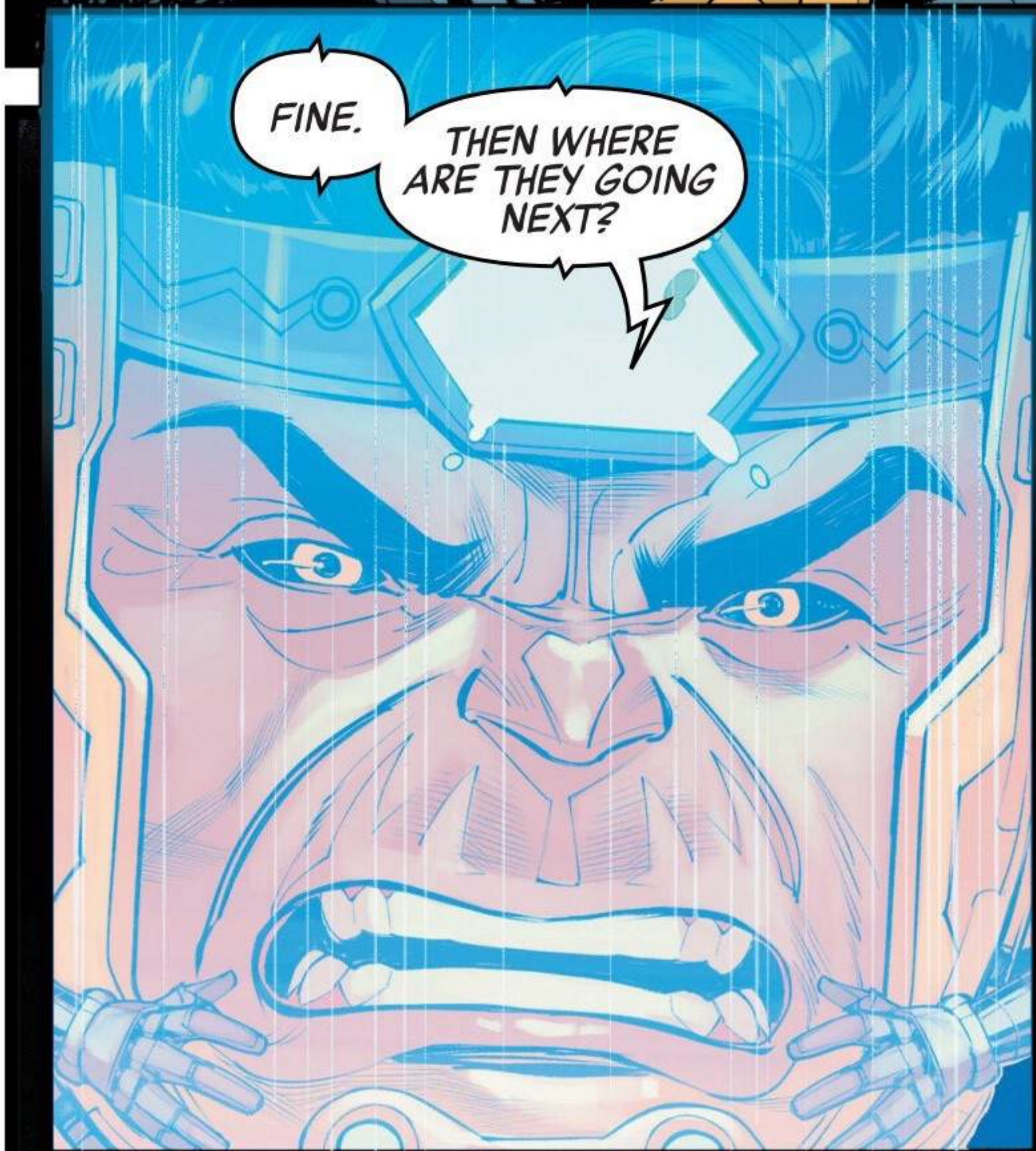




THE AVENGERS JUST LIBERATED A RE-EDUCATION CENTER IN OKLAHOMA.

"LIBERATED"? ODD CHOICE OF WORDS, GARRETT--

YOU WANTED SOMEONE WHO COULD **THINK** LIKE THEM. THAT'S WHAT I'M **DOING**.



FINE.

THEN WHERE ARE THEY GOING NEXT?



I SEE ALL THE ANGLES, M.O.D.O.K. I DON'T SEE THE **FUTURE**.

YOU **IGNORED** MY WARNINGS.

YOU THOUGHT THE AVENGERS WERE UP THERE **HIDING**, BUT THAT WASN'T IT. THEY WERE UP THERE **PLANNING**.



THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY AND THE AVENGERS IN IT.

IT'S NOT A REFUGE. IT'S THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES.

HANGING ABOVE OUR HEADS.



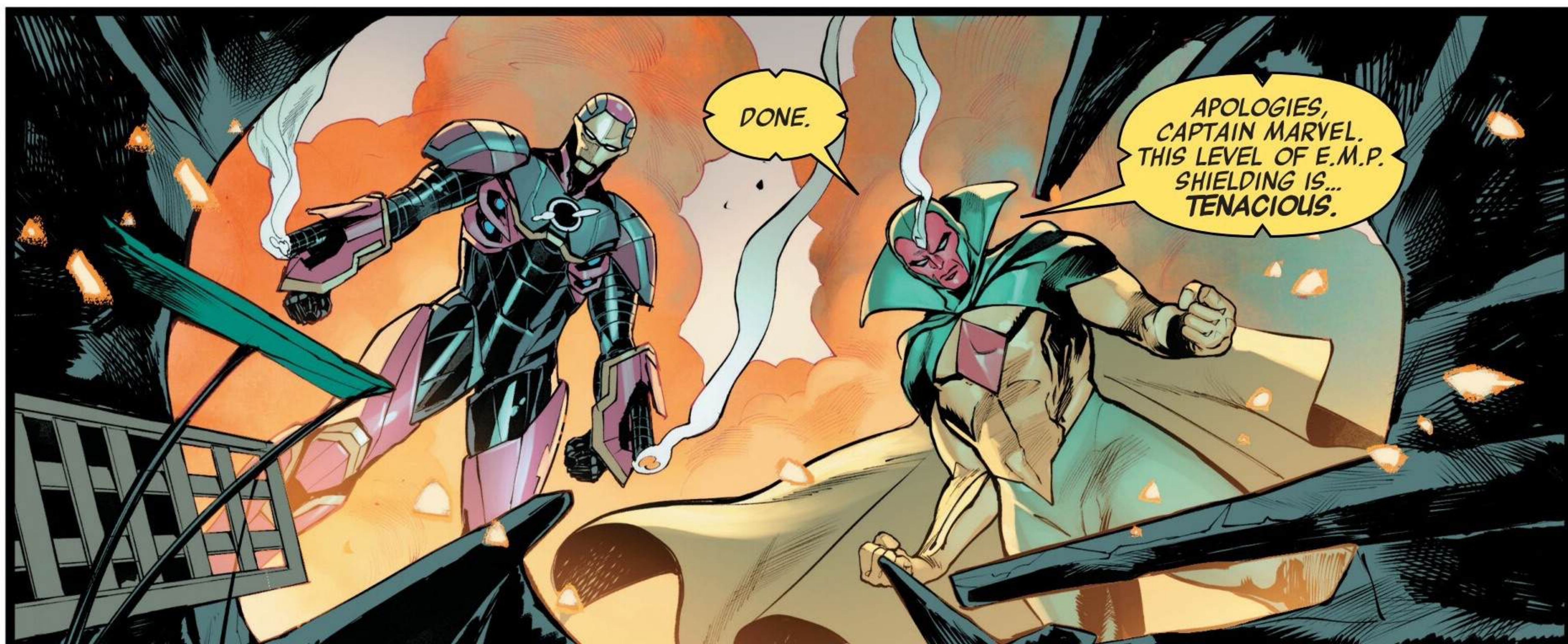
A VERY, **VERY** SHARP BLADE BUT ONE EASILY **BLUNTED**.

THEY **KNEW** THAT THEY'D ONLY GET ONE SHOT AT THIS. AND IF THEY TOOK IT AT THE **WRONG TIME**, IT WOULD BE **WASTED**.

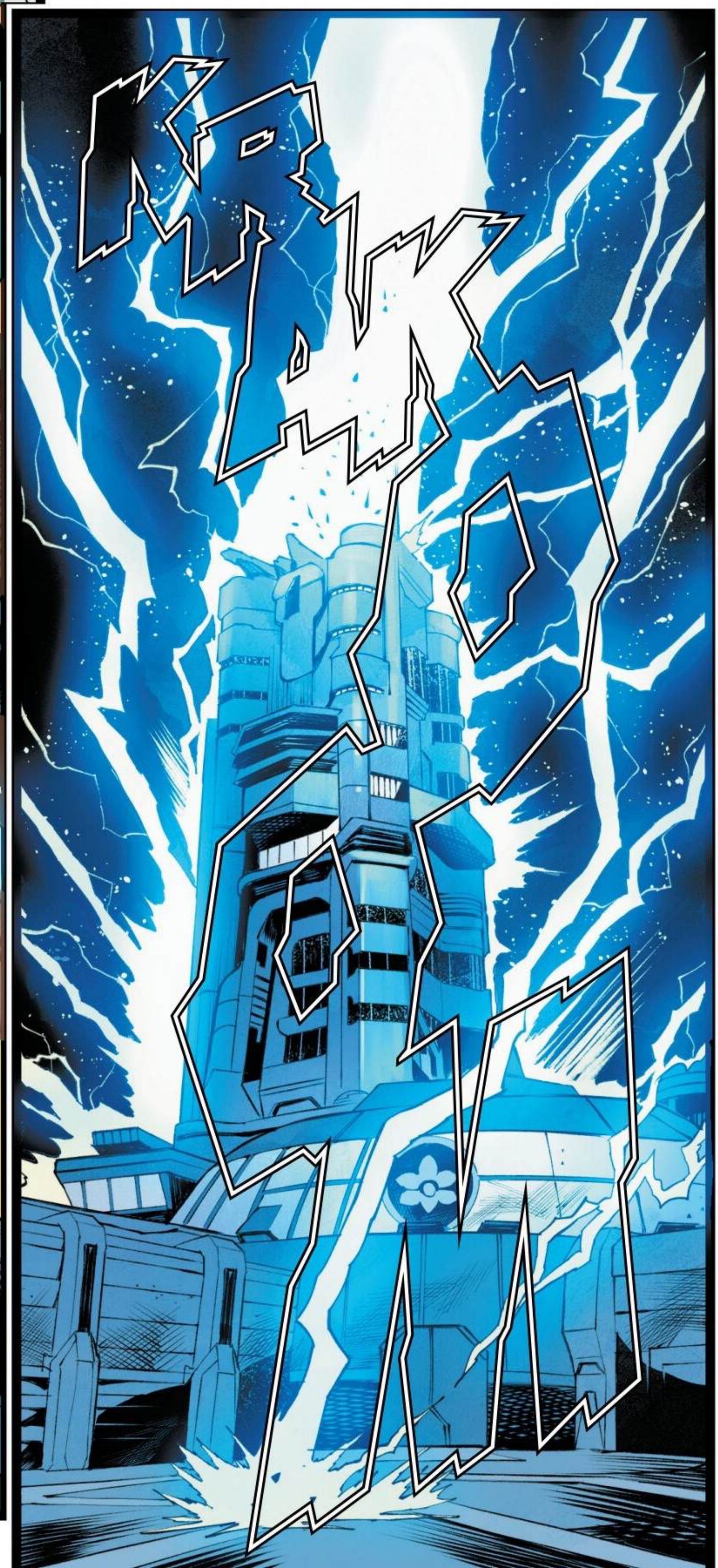




**AVENGERS  
TARGET FOUR:  
ORCHIS  
DATACORE FARM.  
MINNESOTA.**









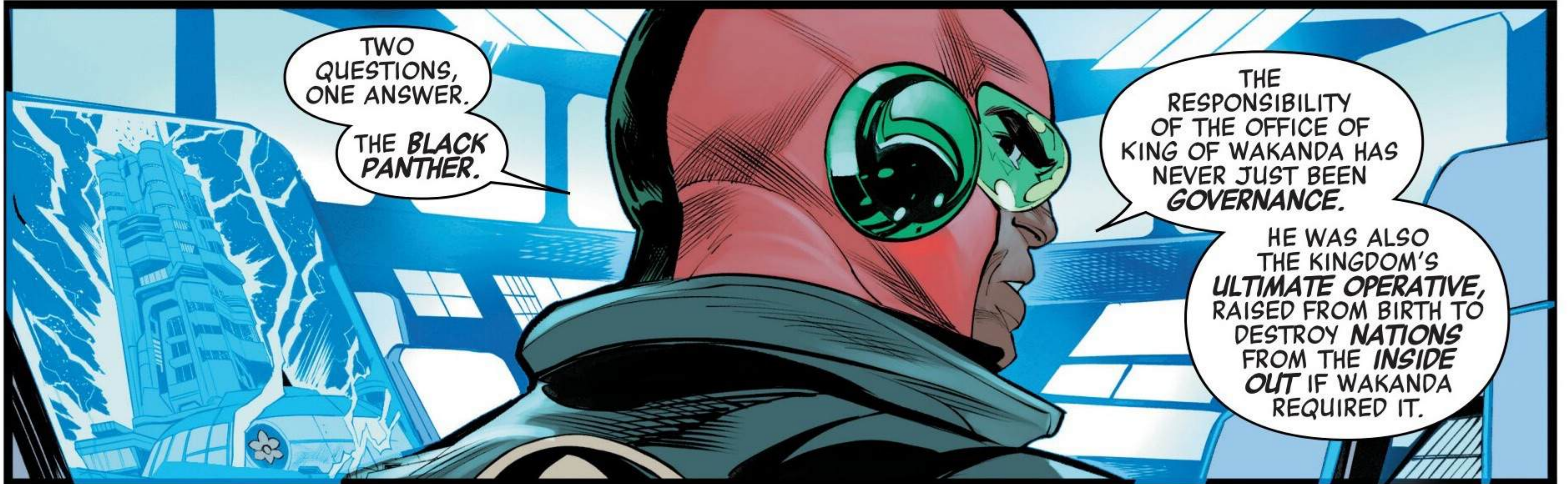


MINNESOTA FARM IS DOWN.

AND THEY'RE GONE.

HOW DO THEY KNOW WHERE TO STRIKE?!

HOW HAVE THEY COMPROMISED OUR SYSTEMS?!



TWO QUESTIONS, ONE ANSWER.

THE BLACK PANTHER.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OFFICE OF KING OF WAKANDA HAS NEVER JUST BEEN GOVERNANCE.

HE WAS ALSO THE KINGDOM'S **ULTIMATE OPERATIVE**, RAISED FROM BIRTH TO DESTROY **NATIONS** FROM THE **INSIDE OUT** IF WAKANDA REQUIRED IT.



IF YOU THINK SO HIGHLY OF THE AVENGERS, THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, GARRETT?

LET ME **TELL** YOU ABOUT THE LAST TIME I WAS AN AVENGER, AS PART OF THE **INITIATIVE**. I BROUGHT IN THE **CAVALRY** DURING THE **SKRULL INVASION**.

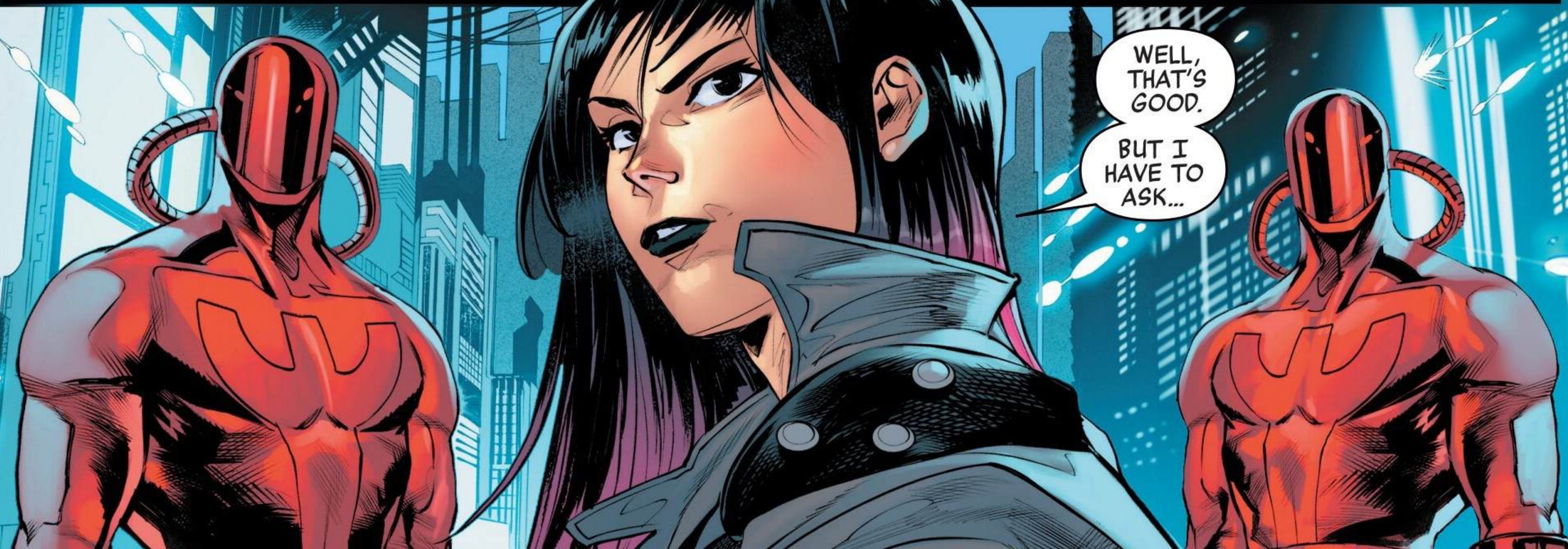
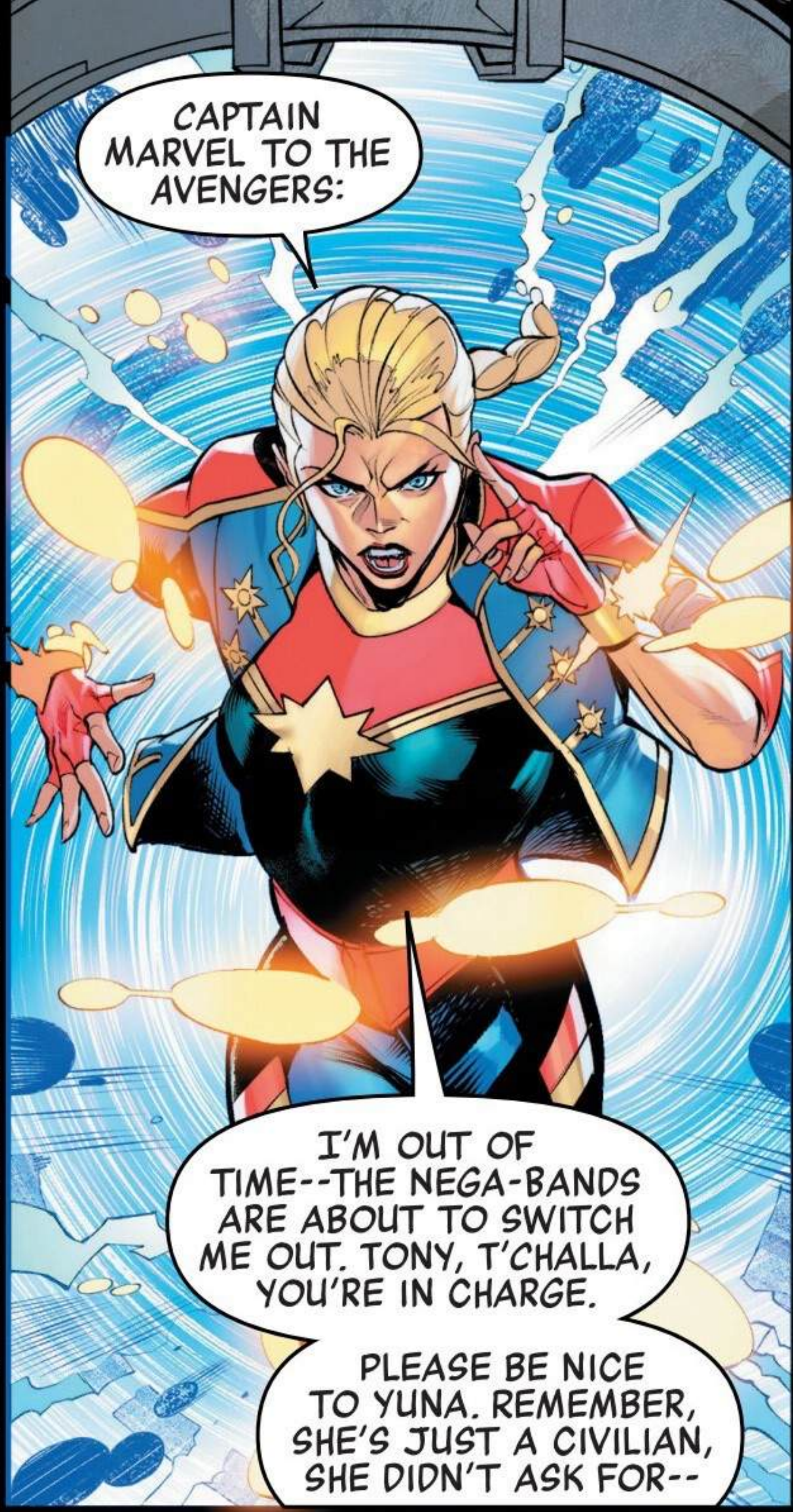
AND THEN THEY CUT ME **LOOSE**. WHY?



FOR KILLING A **SKRULL**.\*

\*AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #19! --TOM

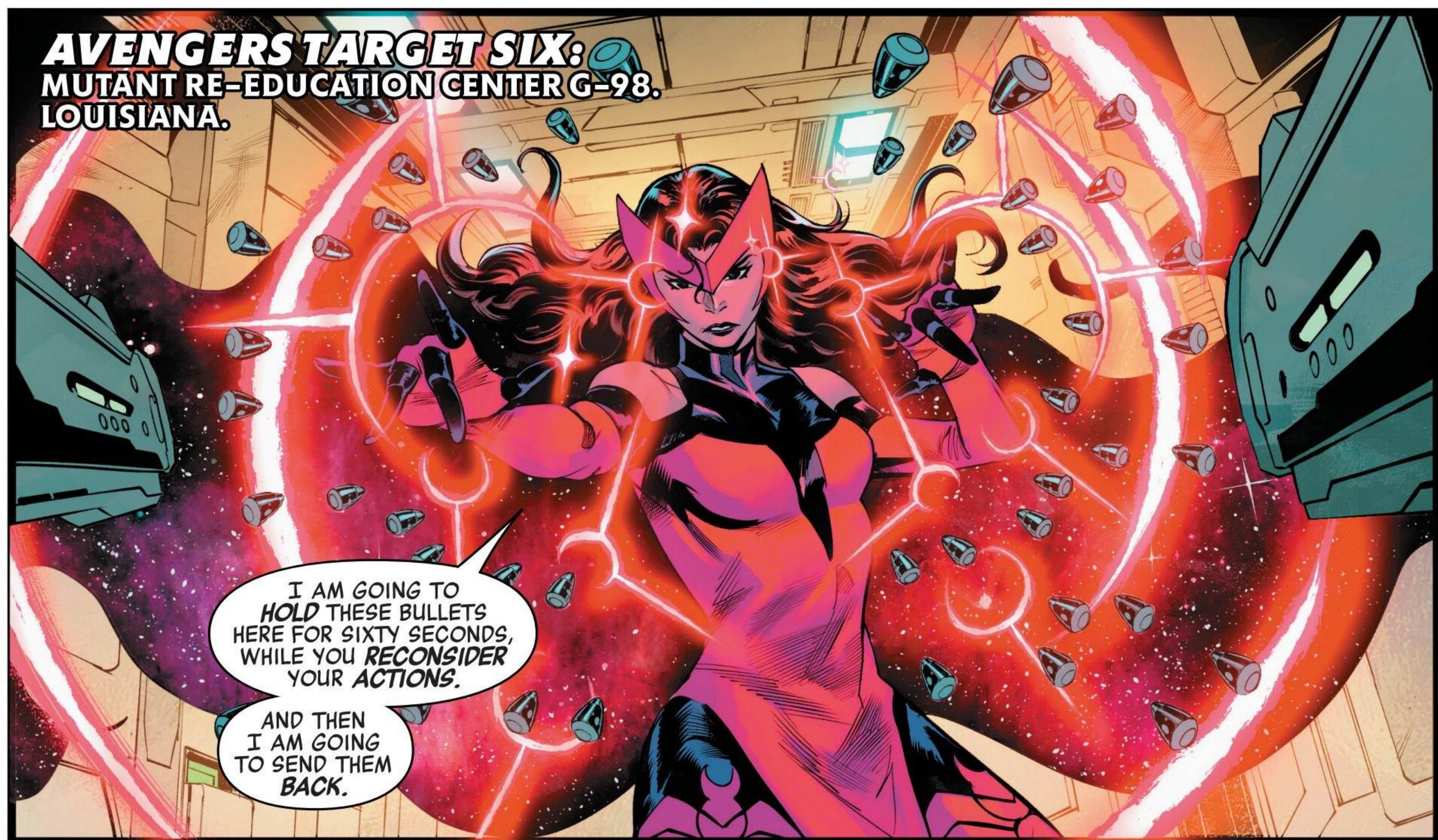








**AVENGERS TARGET SIX:  
MUTANT RE-EDUCATION CENTER G-98.  
LOUISIANA.**







HEADS  
UP--

NO NEED,  
BUT THANK  
YOU.



MAY  
I?



BY ALL  
MEANS.



FOR THE  
RECORD, WE  
HAD THIS.

BUT THIS  
IS QUICKER,  
THANK YOU.



AND THAT  
IS **ANOTHER**  
PRISON  
LIBERATED.

CITY,  
HOW ARE  
THINGS?

EXCELLENT,  
T'CHALLA.

I HAVE  
NEVER HAD SO  
MANY GUESTS. IT  
IS **THRILLING**.





YOU SEE  
WHAT THEY'RE  
DOING?

THEY'RE  
DESTROYING **CRITICAL  
OPERATIONAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE** AND  
**EVACUATING POTENTIAL  
HOSTAGES**, LIMITING  
OUR **LEVERAGE**.

ALL THE WHILE,  
THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY  
HAS BEEN SHOOTING  
DOWN EVERY ORBITAL  
ASSET WE HAVE WITHIN  
VISUAL RANGE.



IT'S NOT JUST THE  
PANTHER. IT CAN'T  
BE. IT'S **ALL**  
OF THEM.

THOR IS ANCIENT, HE  
MUST HAVE FOUGHT IN  
**THOUSANDS** OF  
CAMPAIGNS. IRON MAN  
IS A SEASONED  
CORPORATE RAIDER,  
CAPTAIN MARVEL HAS A  
**MILITARY MIND** AND  
THE VISION HAS A  
**COMPUTER FOR  
A BRAIN**.

NOT TO MENTION  
THE CHAOS THAT  
RESIDES IN THE  
**SCARLET WITCH...**



THEY'RE SYSTEMATICALLY  
REMOVING OUR ABILITY  
TO WAGE WAR AT A  
FANTASTIC SPEED.

THEY HAVE  
TELEPORT CAPACITY  
THAT WE CAN'T TAP  
INTO! WE CAN'T  
INTERCEPT THEM!

SO TELL ME,  
EXPERT, WHAT  
DO WE DO IN  
RESPONSE?

YOU  
GRANT **ME** THE  
OPERATIONAL  
CAPACITY TO DO  
MY **JOB**.

YOU WANT  
THE AVENGERS  
**HANDLED?** I'LL  
HANDLE THEM, WHILE  
YOU ALL DEAL WITH  
THE **MUTANTS**.

GIVE ME AN  
**IRON FIST, M.O.D.O.K.,**  
AND I'LL WRAP IT AROUND  
THE **AVENGERS'**  
**THROAT**.



"I'LL SWAT THEM OUT OF THE SKY."

**AVENGERS TARGET EIGHT:**  
ORCHIS LONG-RANGE COMMUNICATIONS HUB.  
THE AZORES.

KEEP FORMATION TIGHT--



AVENGERS!  
HEY!

WHAT?  
WHO'S ON THE  
CHANNEL--?

LADY  
YUNA!

WHAT  
IS IT?



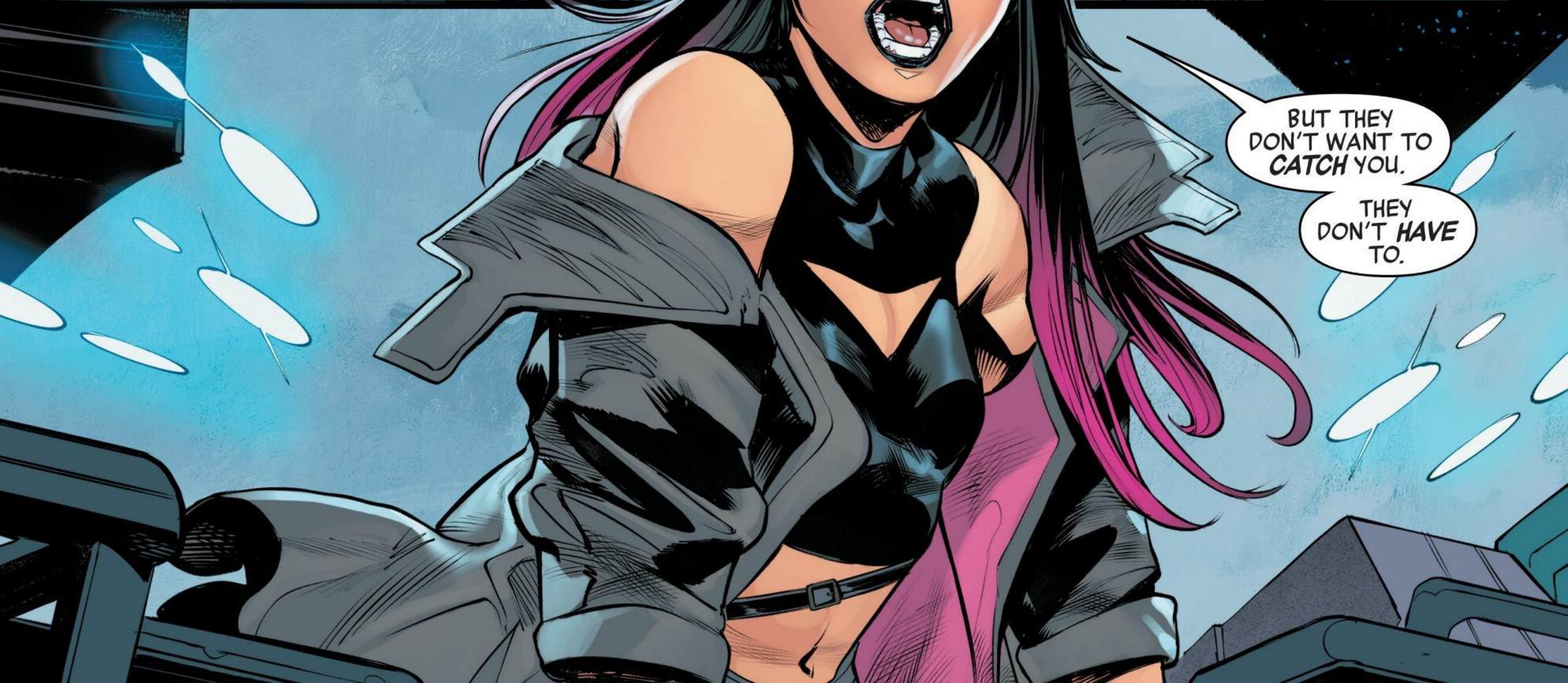


YOU'VE  
GOT TO GET  
BACK!

YOU'VE  
RUN OUT  
OF TIME!



YOU  
THOUGHT IF YOU  
COULD HIT THEM **FAST  
ENOUGH**, THEY'D  
NEVER **CATCH  
YOU!**



BUT THEY  
DON'T WANT TO  
**CATCH YOU.**

THEY  
DON'T HAVE  
TO.



THEY JUST  
HAVE TO CATCH  
US.

**ORCHIS TARGET ONE:  
THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY.  
EARTH ORBIT.**







**THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY.**  
**EARTH ORBIT.**







CITY?

YES,  
YUNA?

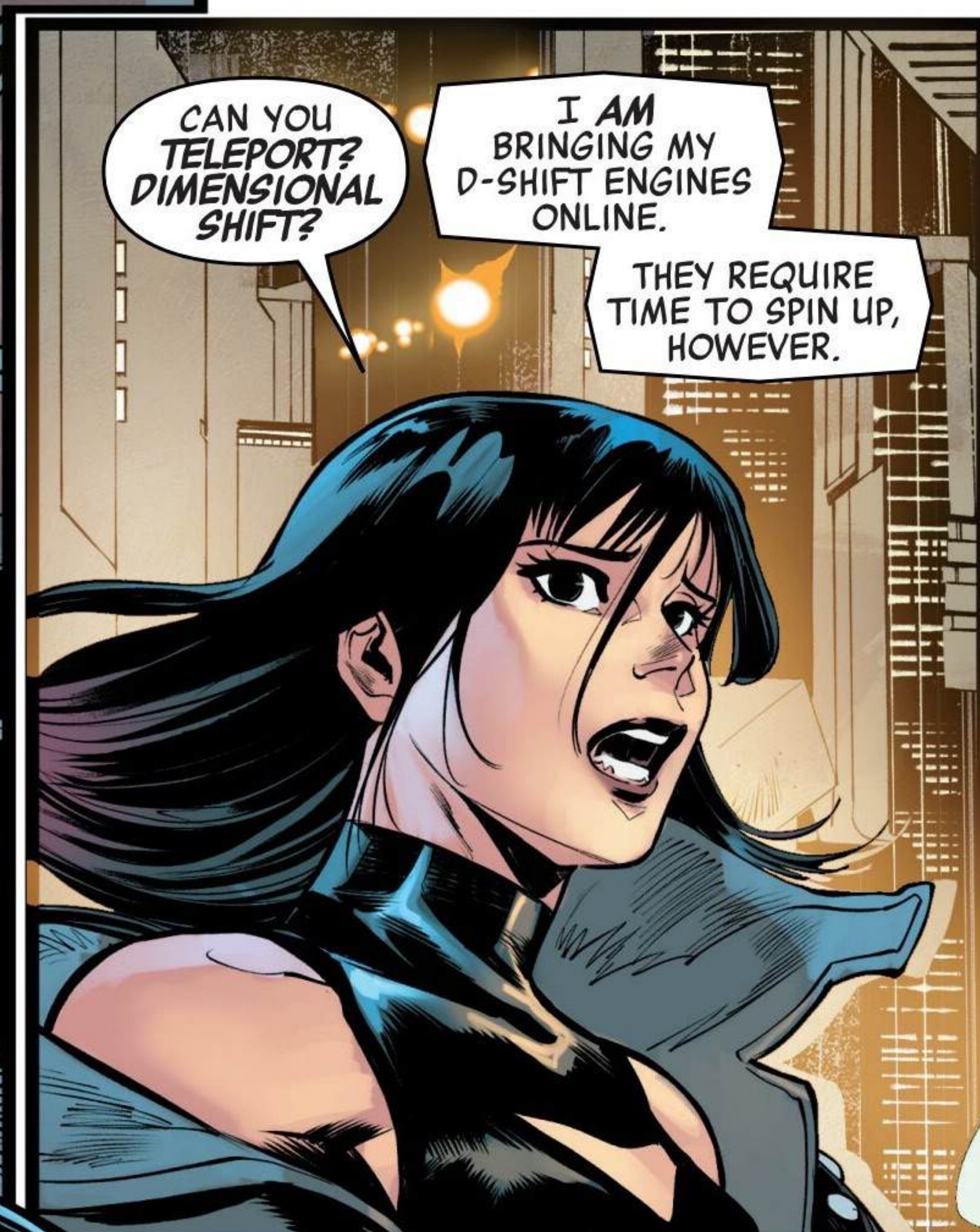
YOU'VE  
GOT THIS,  
RIGHT?



WELL.

YES AND NO,  
I SUPPOSE.

YES, FOR NOW.  
BUT WITH THIS VOLUME  
OF SENTINELS  
INCOMING, MY DEFENSES  
WILL EVENTUALLY  
BE OVERWHELMED.



CAN YOU  
TELEPORT?  
DIMENSIONAL  
SHIFT?

I AM  
BRINGING MY  
D-SHIFT ENGINES  
ONLINE.

THEY REQUIRE  
TIME TO SPIN UP,  
HOWEVER.



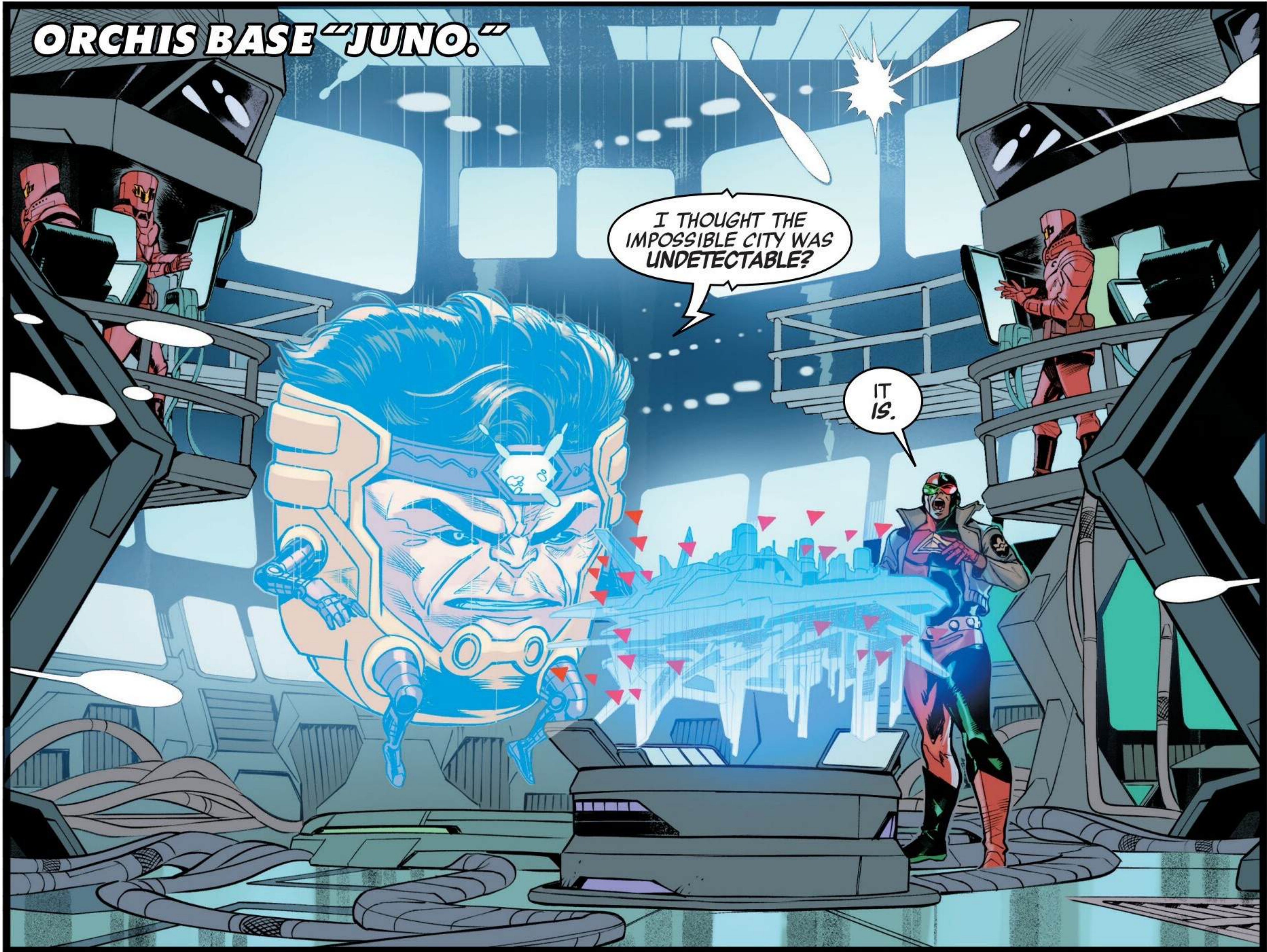
HOW  
LONG?

SIXTEEN  
MINUTES.

AND HOW  
LONG UNTIL THE  
SENTINELS BREAK  
THROUGH THE FIRE  
PERIMETER?

...  
...TWELVE  
MINUTES.

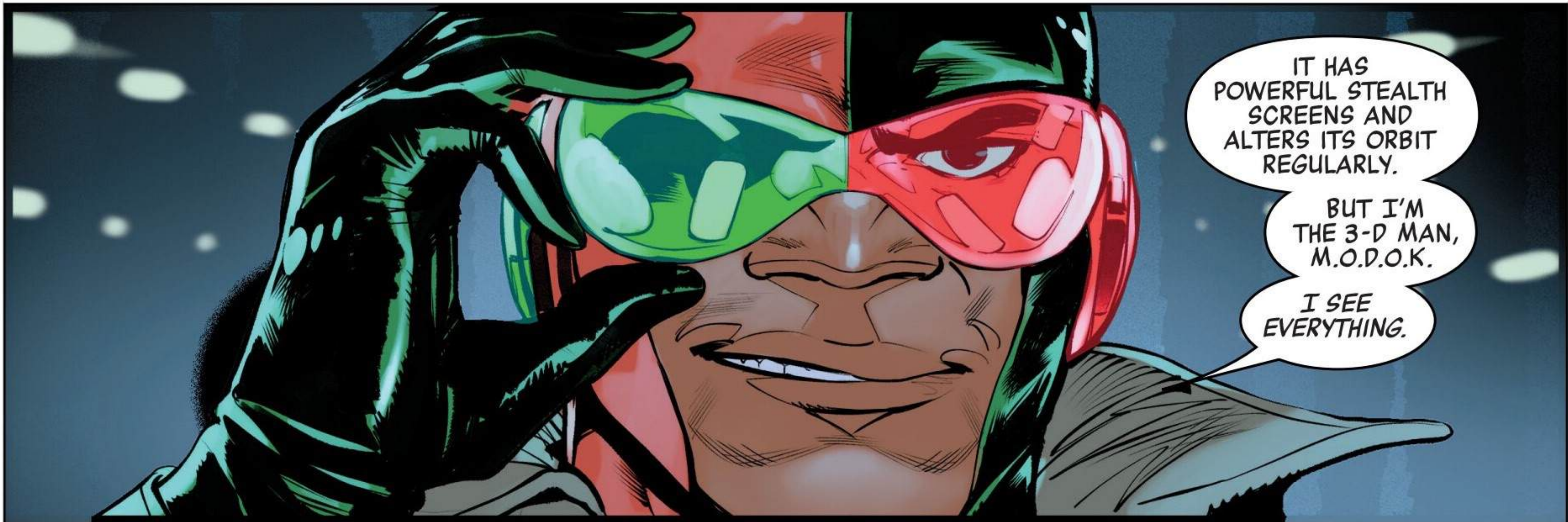




**ORCHIS BASE "JUNO."**

I THOUGHT THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY WAS UNDETECTABLE?

IT IS.



IT HAS POWERFUL STEALTH SCREENS AND ALTERS ITS ORBIT REGULARLY.

BUT I'M THE 3-D MAN, M.O.D.O.K.

I SEE EVERYTHING.



HOW VERY NICE. THE FACT REMAINS, WE'RE GOING THROUGH A GREAT DEAL OF SENTINELS.

SENTINELS THAT ARE NEEDED ELSEWHERE.

WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, YOU CAN BUILD MORE.

THE AVENGERS HAVE BEEN HITTING US ALL DAY. I'M GIVING THEM TO YOU ON A PLATTER AND YOU'RE CRYING ABOUT THE COST?



**AVENGER TARGET NINE:**  
**MUTANT REEDUCATION CENTER K-19.**



DAMN.  
THE  
IMPOSSIBLE CITY IS  
UNDER ATTACK.



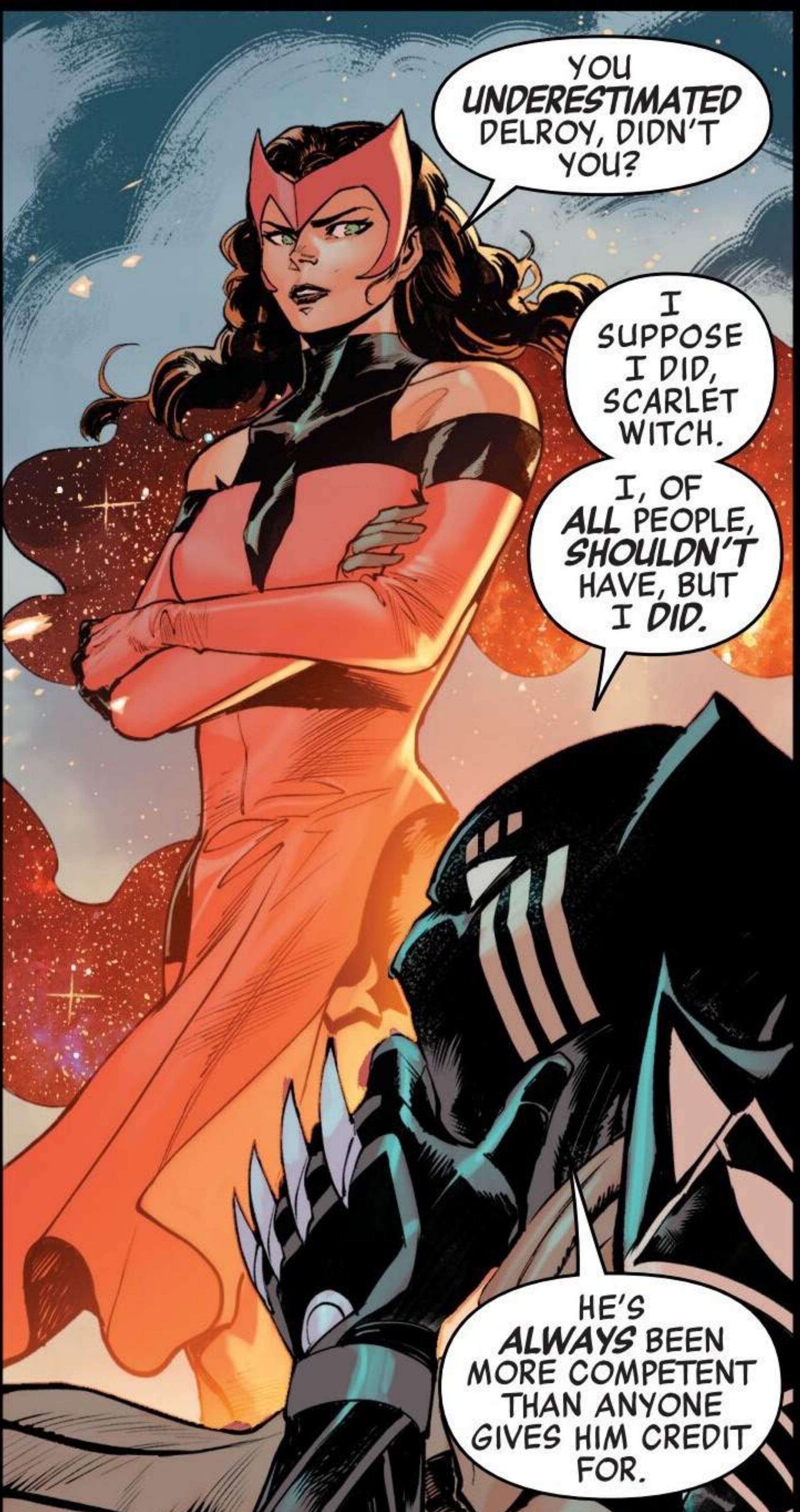
WE *JUST*  
SENT A PRISON  
FULL OF *MUTANTS*  
THERE, T'CHALLA!



I  
KNOW.

THIS WAS  
ALWAYS A PLAN  
WITH A CERTAIN  
AMOUNT OF...  
*FLEX.*

ORCHIS' AGENT  
IS *BETTER* THAN  
I HAD ANTICIPATED.  
HE'S *PIVOTED.*



YOU  
*UNDERESTIMATED*  
DELOY, DIDN'T  
YOU?

I  
SUPPOSE  
I DID,  
SCARLET  
WITCH.

I, OF  
ALL PEOPLE,  
*SHOULDN'T*  
HAVE, BUT  
I DID.

HE'S  
*ALWAYS* BEEN  
MORE COMPETENT  
THAN ANYONE  
GIVES HIM CREDIT  
FOR.





I'M  
NEEDED UP  
THERE.

CAN THE  
TWO OF YOU  
SEE THIS  
THROUGH?



GO.

WE CAN  
BREAK THIS  
DOWN.

INDEED.

CAN YOU  
SEND US TO THESE  
COORDINATES?



OF  
COURSE.

GOOD  
HUNTING,  
AVENGERS.





IRON MAN  
TO THE  
IMPOSSIBLE  
CITY!

HOW ARE  
WE DOING UP  
THERE?



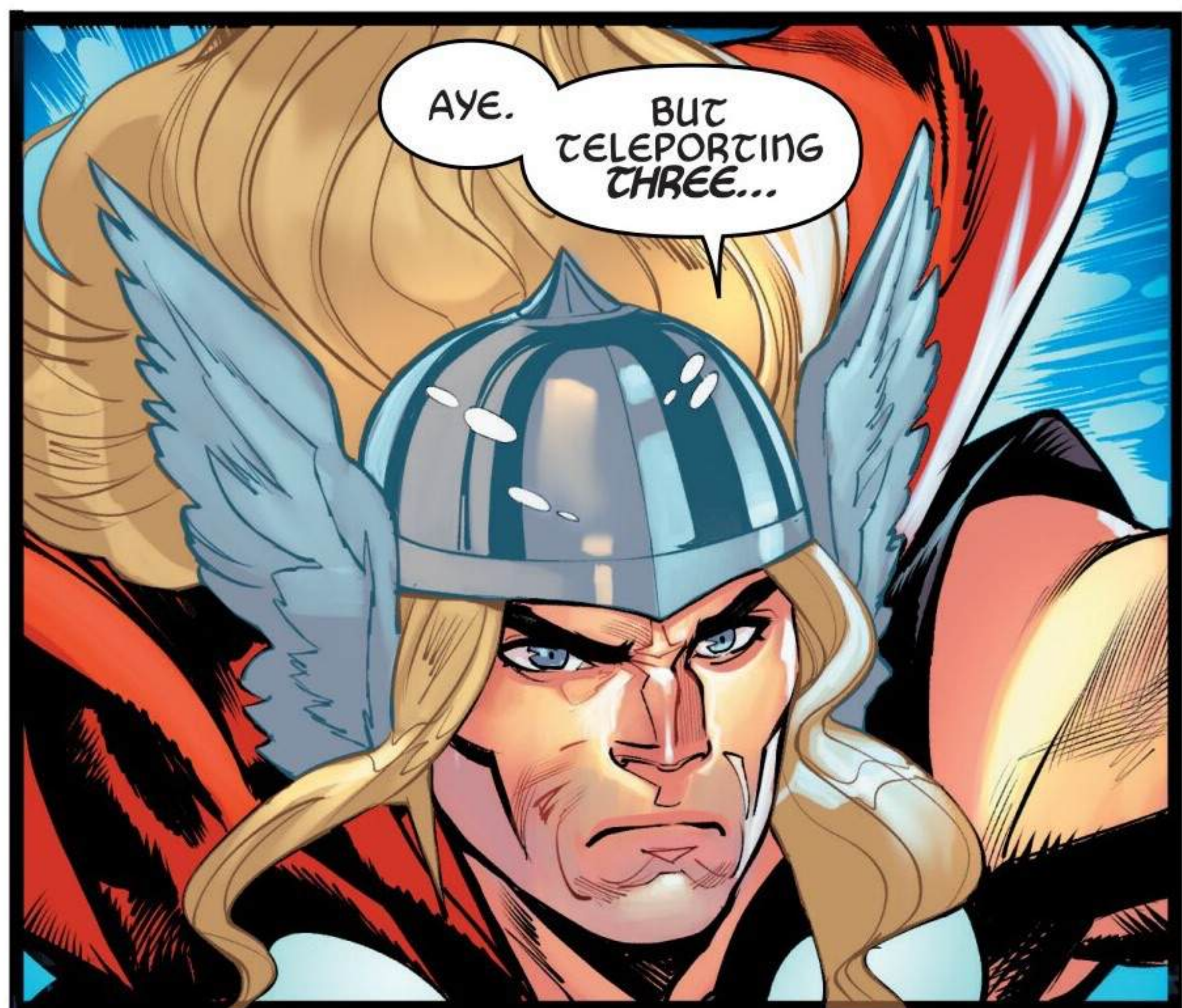
THERE'S  
NO TIME!  
WE NEED TO  
EVACUATE--



UNFEASIBLE.

THE CITY'S  
PROCESSING  
POWER IS NEEDED TO  
CALCULATE FIRING  
SOLUTIONS.

A TRANSLOCATION  
OF THAT SCALE WOULD  
ALLOW THE SENTINELS TO  
BREACH THE PERIMETER TOO  
QUICKLY TO PREVENT A  
MASSIVE LOSS OF LIFE.



AYE.

BUT  
TELEPORTING  
THREE...



...IS WELL  
WITHIN MY  
CAPACITIES.





WANDA.

AVENGERS.  
NICE  
OF YOU TO  
DROP IN.





MAKE SURE  
TO KEEP OUT OF  
THE CITY'S FIRING  
LANES.

CITY:  
TIME?



TIME UNTIL  
D-SHIFT: 14 MINUTES,  
49 SECONDS.

TIME UNTIL SENTINEL  
BREACH: 10 MINUTES,  
12 SECONDS. HOWEVER,  
THAT ESTIMATE IS  
**INCREASING** NOW THAT  
YOU HAVE ENTERED  
THE CONFLICT.

THAT IS  
FORGETTING  
THE SENTINEL'S  
ADAPTIVE  
TECHNOLOGY.

HOW LONG  
UNTIL THEY'VE  
FULLY ADAPTED  
TO OUR  
STRENGTHS?



I'M SORRY,  
THOR.  
I DON'T  
HAVE THAT  
DATA.

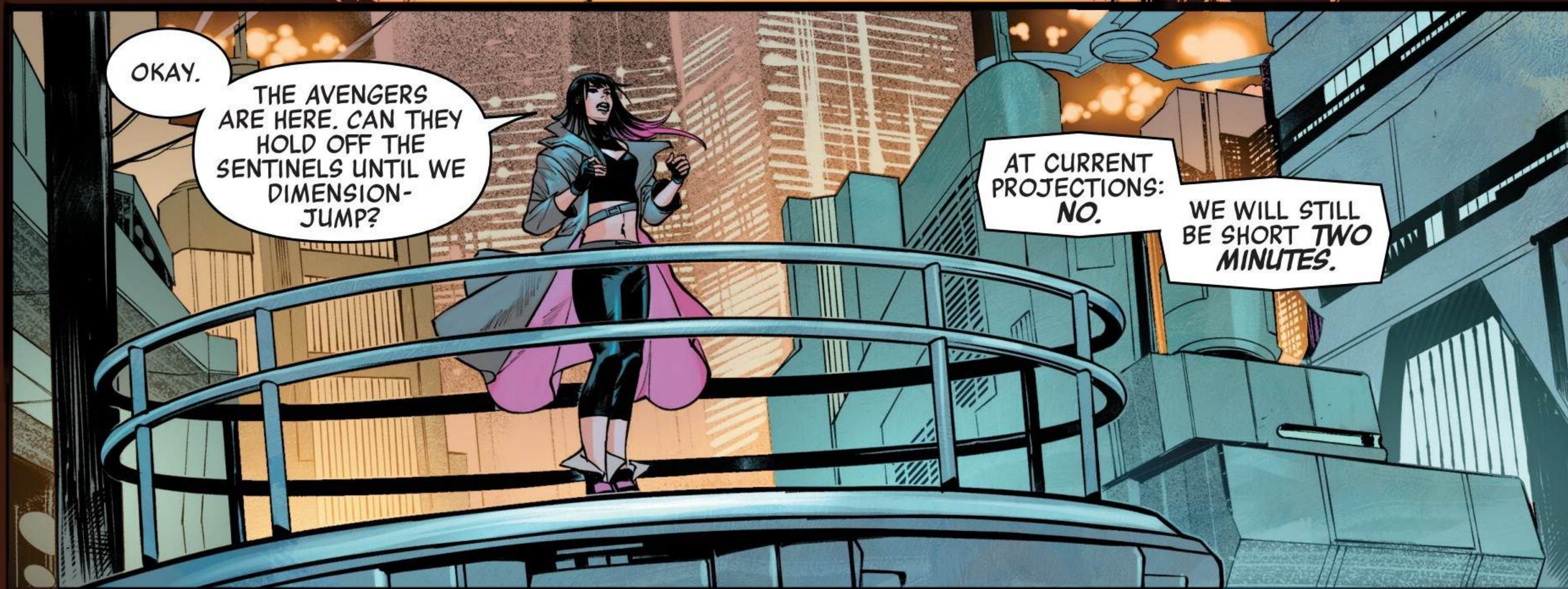
SIX MINUTES,  
APPROXIMATELY.

SO FAR, WE'VE  
MANAGED TO HIT  
THEM TOO HARD AND  
FAST FOR THEM TO ADAPT.  
BUT WITH SUCH A MASS  
OF NETWORKED  
SENTINELS...



I CAN DO  
A GREAT DEAL  
OF DAMAGE IN  
SIX MINUTES.





OKAY.

THE AVENGERS  
ARE HERE. CAN THEY  
HOLD OFF THE  
SENTINELS UNTIL WE  
DIMENSION-  
JUMP?

AT CURRENT  
PROJECTIONS:  
**NO.**

WE WILL STILL  
BE SHORT **TWO**  
**MINUTES.**



THAT'S  
ALL I NEED  
TO KNOW.

**ZANGG**



BECAUSE  
I'VE GOT ABOUT  
**THREE MINUTES**  
BEFORE I GET  
PULLED BACK.

CITY:  
SEND ME TO  
THE **FIGHT.**





WHAT IS THAT?!

INTRUSION ALARM. BEST GUESS? BLACK PANTHER AND CAPTAIN AMERICA.

NOT MUCH THEY CAN DO IN ORBIT, SO THEY'VE COME TO TRY AND STOP ME.

WHAT?!



RELAX.

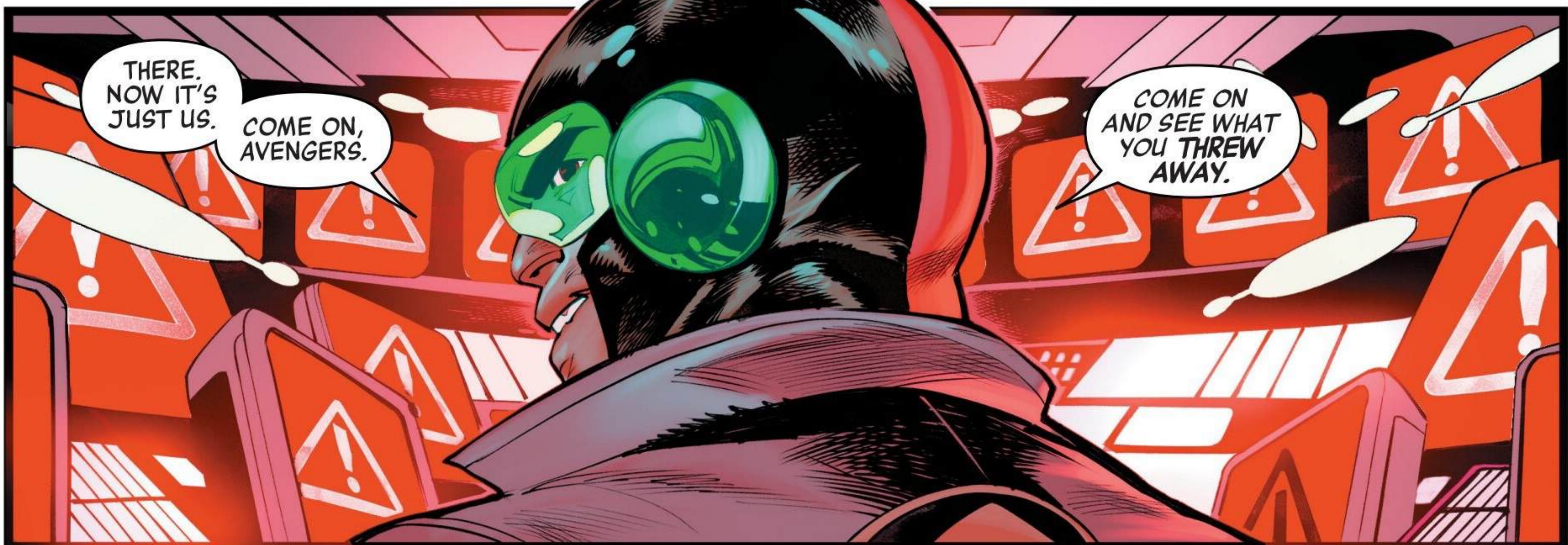
I WAS READY FOR THIS. I **PLANNED** FOR THIS. YOU THINK I'D PLAN OUT AN ATTACK ON THE AVENGERS AND **NOT** BEAT ONE OR TWO DOWN **PERSONALLY**?

I'M **THREE-IN-ONE**. ONE OF ME OUTNUMBERS **TWO** OF THEM.



3-D MAN OUT.

WHAT--?



THERE. NOW IT'S JUST US.

COME ON, AVENGERS.

COME ON AND SEE WHAT YOU **THREW AWAY**.





CUTTING IT CLOSE, AREN'T YOU, CAPTAIN MARVEL?

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

I'M ONLY GOOD FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES, THEN I GET SNAPPED BACK.

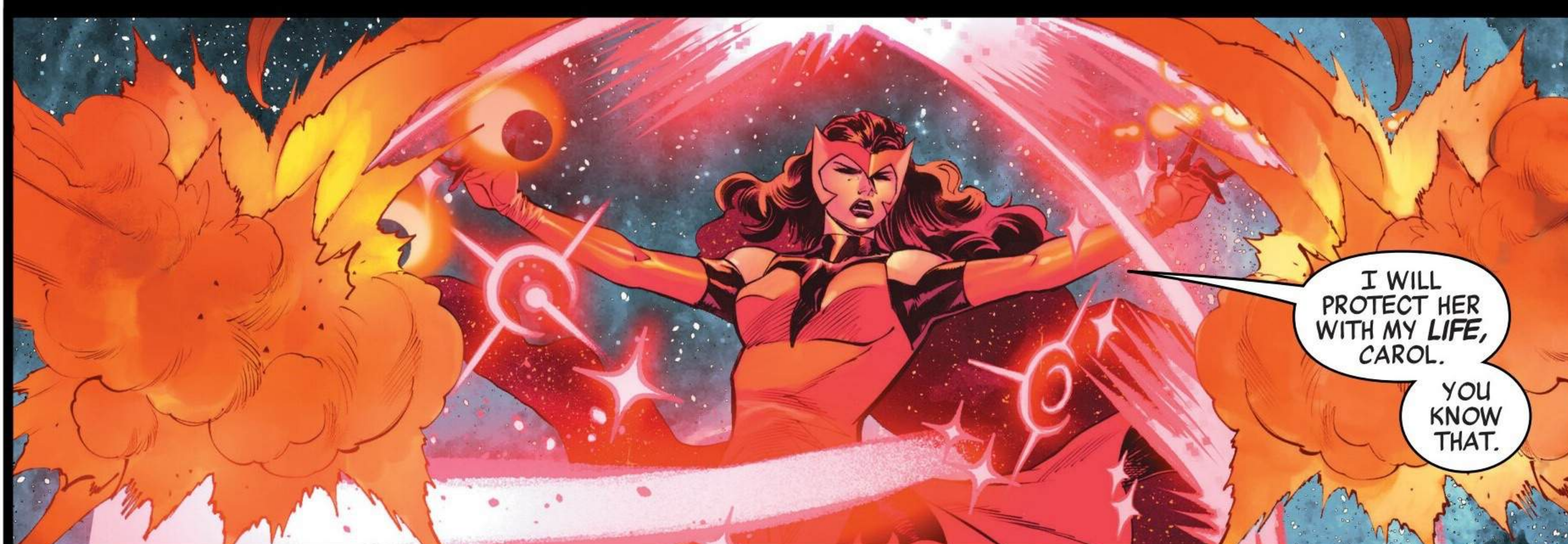
BUT WE **NEED** THOSE COUPLE OF MINUTES.



AND WHEN THOSE MINUTES HAVE PASSED?



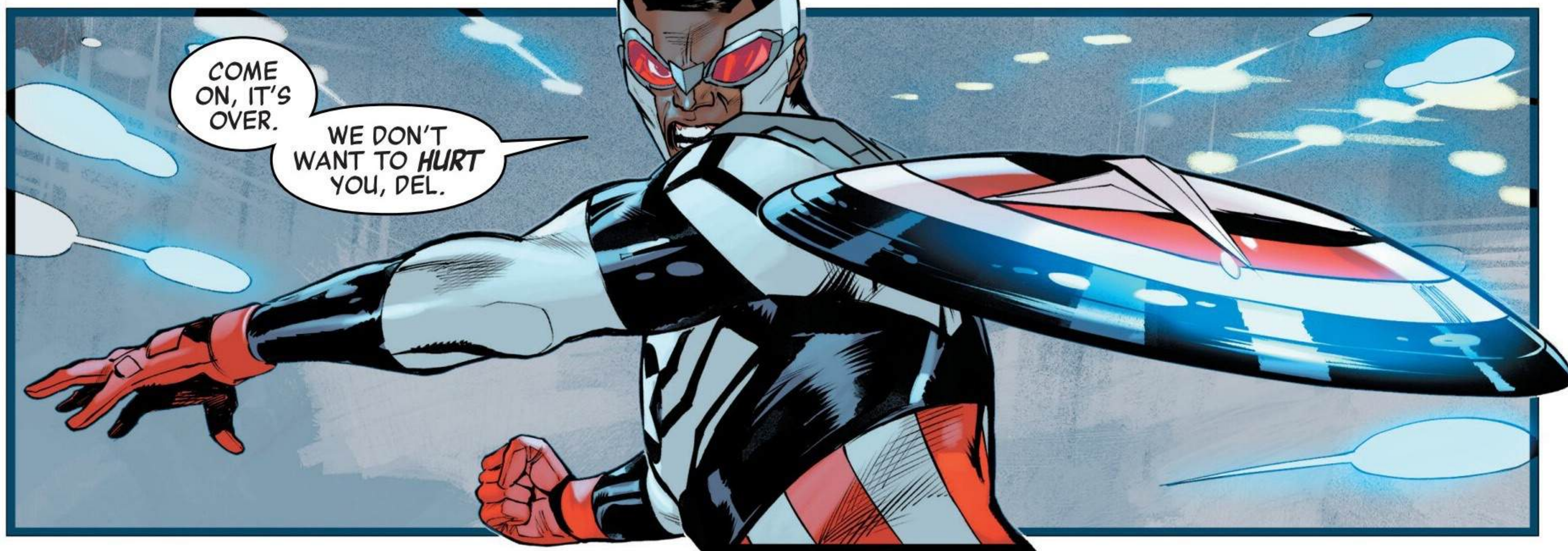
THEN I'M COUNTING ON ONE OF **YOU** TO SAVE YUNA.



I WILL PROTECT HER WITH MY **LIFE**, CAROL.

**YOU** KNOW THAT.









YOU'RE RIGHT, DELROY.

I DID UNDERESTIMATE YOU.

YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU WOULD COME AT US WITH EVERYTHING YOU HAD. I SHOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD WHAT THAT MEANT.



I--  
I WHAT?



THIS IS A TRICK--



NO.  
ALL OF THIS, THIS HAS BEEN THE TRICK.



<WAKE UP, TREASURED ONE.>\*  
<WAKE UP...>

\*TRANSLATED FROM OLD WAKANDAN.



<...AVENGER.>

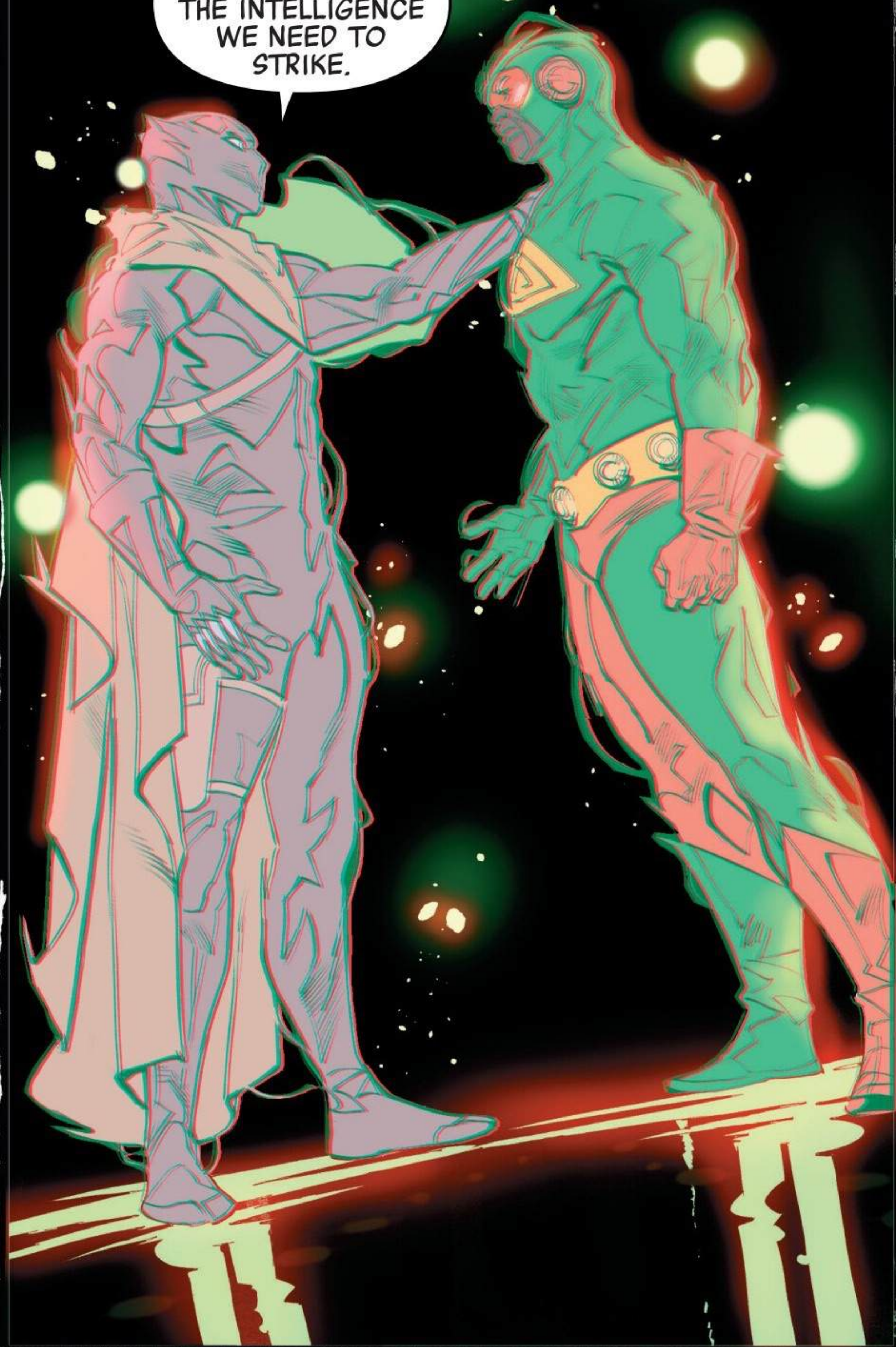


...I'LL  
DO IT.

AN  
EMBITTERED  
EX-AVenger.  
I CAN SELL  
THAT.

THANK YOU,  
DELROY.

ONCE INSIDE,  
YOU CAN FEED US  
THE INTELLIGENCE  
WE NEED TO  
STRIKE.



AVENGERS:

THE FIRST  
SENTINEL HAS  
BROKEN THROUGH  
THE FIRE  
PERIMETER--



BUT WE  
HAVE TO GO  
ALL THE  
WAY.

THEY HAVE  
TO THINK IT'S *REAL*.  
YOU HAVE TO MAKE *ME*  
THINK IT'S *REAL*. THEY'RE  
TOO SECURE FOR  
ANYTHING LESS.

ARE YOU  
SUGGESTING HYPNO-  
CONDITIONING?



IRON MAN  
AND VISION  
INBOUND,  
CITY.

HOLD  
TIGHT, WE'VE  
GOT HIM--











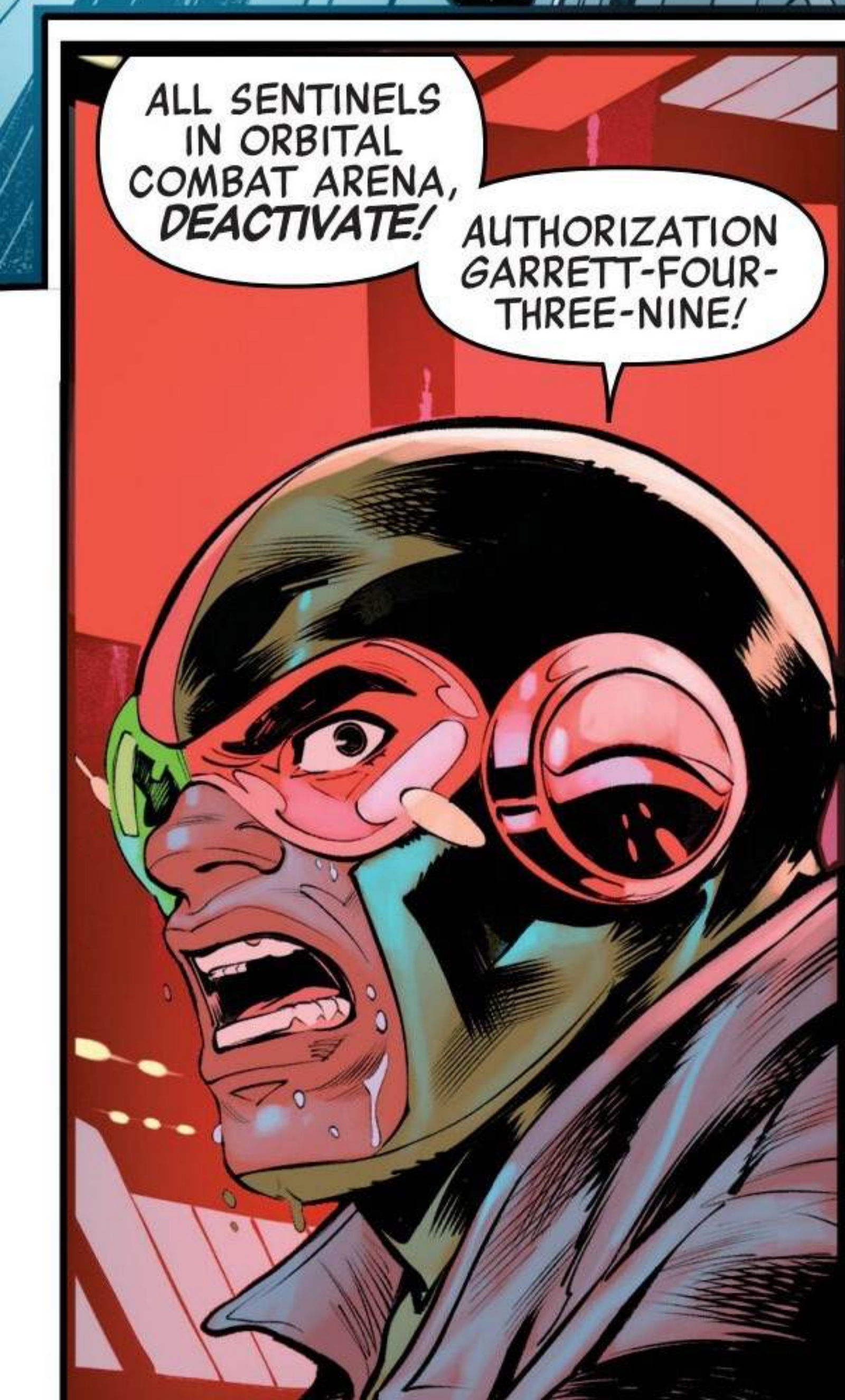
I'M...

I'M  
MYSELF  
AGAIN.

OH  
GOD, THE  
SENTINELS--



PREPARE  
FOR *IMPACT*--



ALL SENTINELS  
IN ORBITAL  
COMBAT ARENA,  
**DEACTIVATE!**

AUTHORIZATION  
GARRETT-FOUR-  
THREE-NINE!



THEY...THEY  
STOPPED?

IT  
WOULD  
APPEAR  
SO.



VISION TO  
BLACK PANTHER,  
CAPTAIN  
AMERICA.





ORBIT IS SECURED.

BLACK PANTHER TO THE AVENGERS:

VIRAL STRIKE ON ORCHIS SYSTEMS IS UNDERWAY.

WE'RE HEADED HOME.

I DID WHAT I COULD.

WE'VE WIPED OUT THEIR SENTINEL RESERVES, TAKEN OUT THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE I POINTED YOU TO...

...BUT WILL IT BE ENOUGH?

ON ITS OWN? NO.

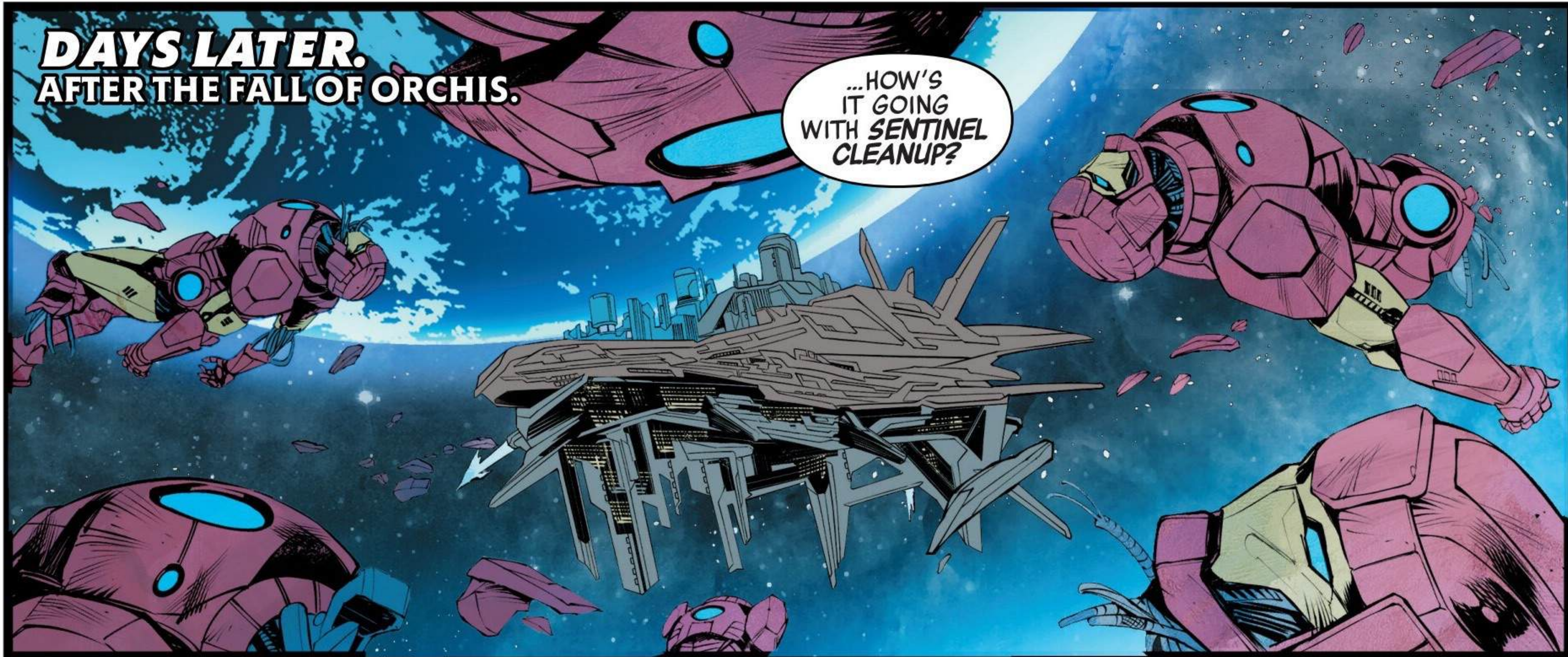
BUT THAT'S THE THING, DELROY.

WE'RE ALL DOING WHAT WE CAN. WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

NONE OF US IS ALONE.







**DAYS LATER.**  
**AFTER THE FALL OF ORCHIS.**

...HOW'S  
IT GOING  
WITH **SENTINEL**  
**CLEANUP?**



NOT  
BAD, NOT  
BAD.

THOUGH  
BETWEEN *THIS* AND  
THE *MAN-SLAYERS*, I  
AM GETTING A *LITTLE*  
SICK OF SCOOPING  
DEACTIVATED ROBOTS  
OUT OF ORBIT.

VICTORY.

IT IS THE  
*SWEETEST* WINE,  
MY FRIENDS. CITY!  
YOU FOUGHT WITH  
COURAGE!



THANK  
YOU, THOR.



SHAME  
DELOYD  
COULDN'T  
BE HERE.

HE HAD  
HIS OWN  
BUSINESS,  
I AM  
AFRAID.

SAM, ARE  
YOU *CERTAIN*  
THESE AREN'T  
BURNED?

OH,  
FOR GOD'S  
SAKE.



WELL, WE  
COULD CERTAINLY  
USE A BREAK.

LET US JUST  
HOPE THAT THE  
WORLD REMAINS  
SAFE FOR A  
*LITTLE* LONGER.

WANDA...





...I FEAR  
THAT IS NOT  
THE CASE.



VAMPIRES HAVE DESCENDED UPON THE EARTH! WITH THE PLANET SHROUDED IN PERPETUAL NIGHT, VAMPIRES ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER — AND IT'S UP TO THE AVENGERS TO STOP THEM! BUT HORDES OF VAMPIRES AND ONLY SEVEN AVENGERS MEANS CAPTAIN MARVEL KNOWS IT'S TIME TO CALL IN THE CAVALRY... AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!



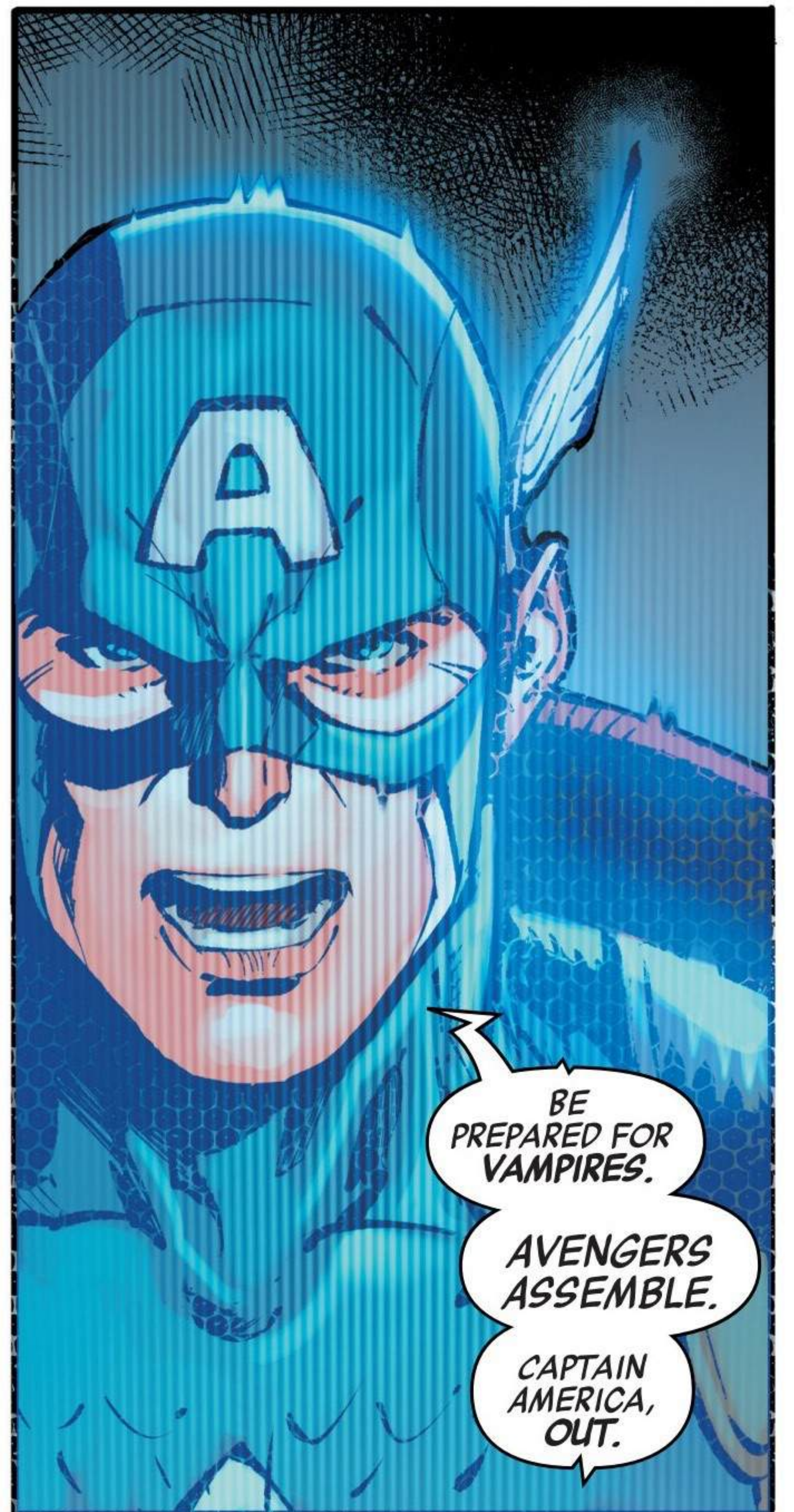
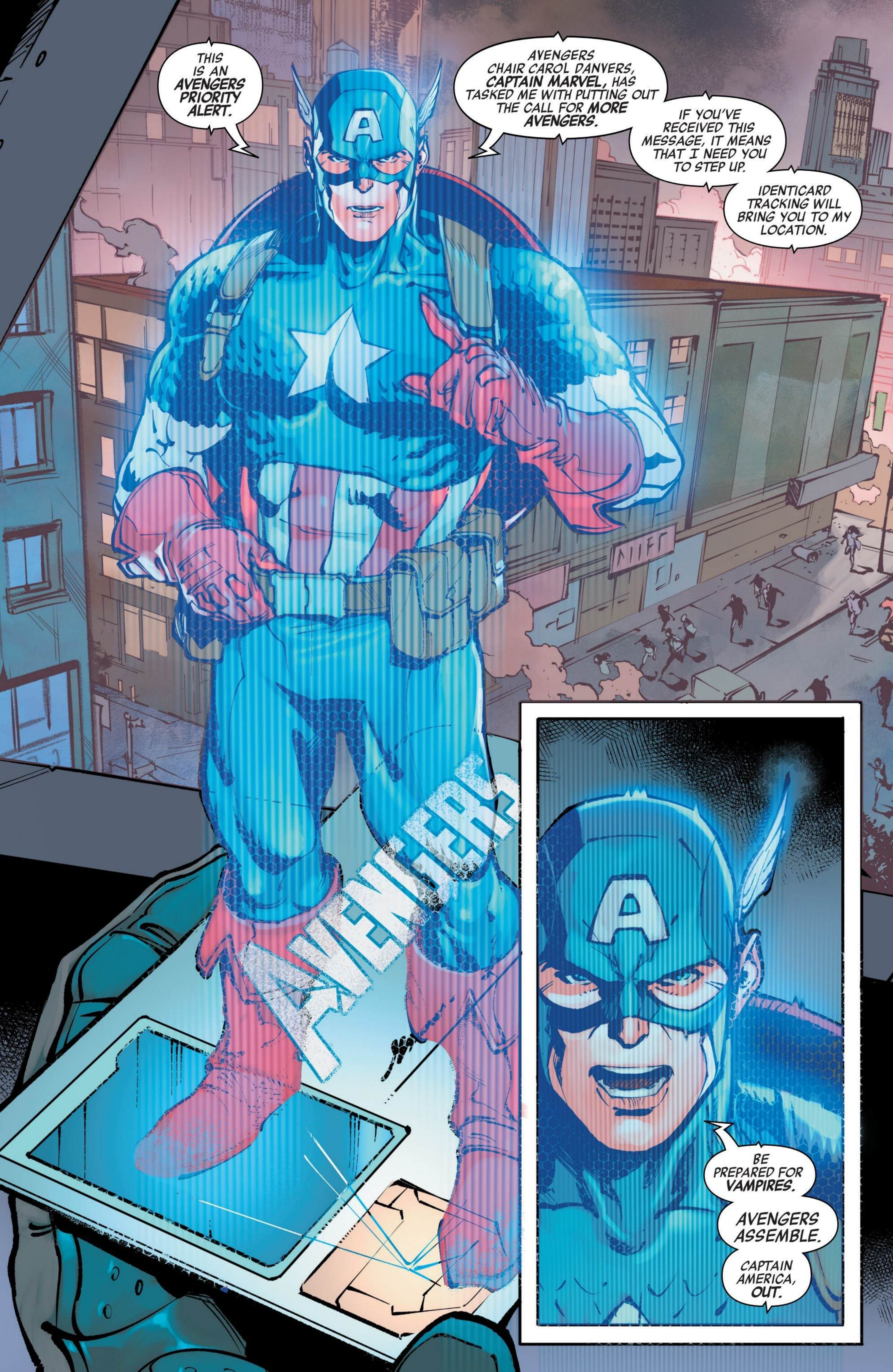


THIS  
IS AN  
AVENGERS  
PRIORITY  
ALERT.

AVENGERS  
CHAIR CAROL DANVERS,  
CAPTAIN MARVEL, HAS  
TASKED ME WITH PUTTING OUT  
THE CALL FOR MORE  
AVENGERS.

IF YOU'VE  
RECEIVED THIS  
MESSAGE, IT MEANS  
THAT I NEED YOU  
TO STEP UP.

IDENTICARD  
TRACKING WILL  
BRING YOU TO MY  
LOCATION.



BE  
PREPARED FOR  
VAMPIRES.

AVENGERS  
ASSEMBLE.

CAPTAIN  
AMERICA,  
OUT.



THERE'S SUPER  
HEROES AND  
SUPER VILLAINS.

I SUPPOSE I'M A  
SUPER HERO. I'VE  
WORN THIS COSTUME,  
TAKEN ON THIS NAME,  
FOUGHT VILLAINS  
ALL ACROSS THIS  
WORLD AND ANY  
NUMBER OF OTHERS.

WITH THE  
AVENGERS,  
NO LESS.



BUT AT MY  
HEART, I'M  
A *SOLDIER*.

IT WAS ALL I  
EVER WANTED  
TO BE.



NOT BECAUSE I LIKE  
WAR, OR FIGHTING  
FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

BUT THIS HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN A WORLD WHERE  
THINGS EXIST THAT NEED  
TO BE FOUGHT *AGAINST*.



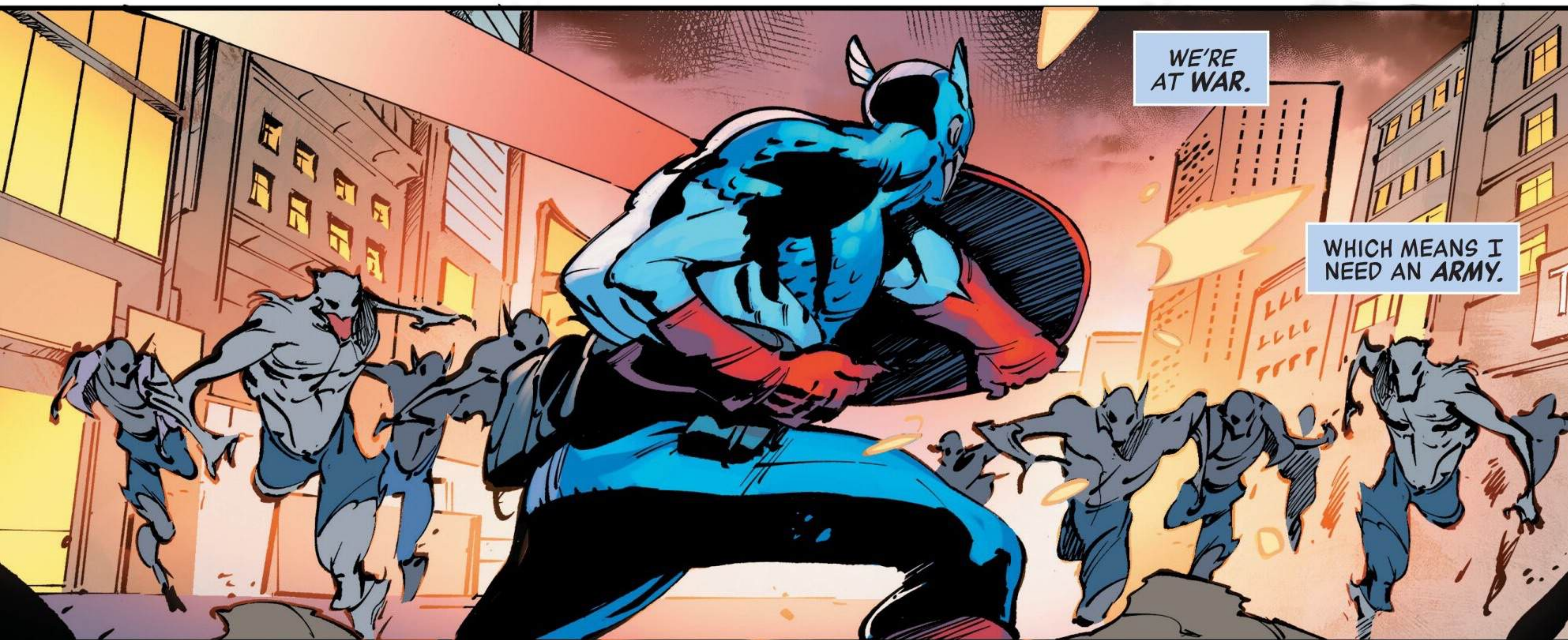
AND THAT'S WHAT  
I WANTED TO DO.

FIGHT AGAINST THE  
THINGS THAT NEED  
TO BE FOUGHT.

I'M A SOLDIER.  
WHICH MEANS I CAN  
TELL YOU THIS:

WE'RE  
AT WAR.

WHICH MEANS I  
NEED AN *ARMY*.





EVERY TIME I  
RETURN TO THIS WORLD,  
I FIND IT IN *PERIL*.

THAT IS NO  
GREAT WORRY.

FOR *HERCULES*  
IS THE MATCH OF  
ANY PERIL.

HAHA!  
CAPTAIN AMERICA,  
THE PRINCE OF  
POWER HEEDS  
YOUR CALL!

COME THEN,  
STRIGES!

I HAVE LIVED VERY,  
VERY LONG AND  
HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD FLICKER  
TIME AND AGAIN.

AND EVERY TIME,  
*HERCULES* HAS  
BEEN THERE TO  
MEET THAT WHICH  
WOULD  
EXTINGUISH IT.

COME AND  
RECEIVE THE  
GIFT OF  
BATTLE!

IF THIS BE  
THE CRISIS THAT  
FINALLY SNUFFS  
IT OUT...

HO!

THE  
SUN-KISSED  
SWORD OF *APOLLO*  
IS A CRUEL BLADE,  
IS IT NOT?

...THEN I WILL  
MEET THAT FINAL  
DARKNESS AS  
AN *AVENGER*.

HA!

SPEAKING OF  
*APOLLONIAN*--  
AN ARROW FROM  
THE HEAVENS!





THEY SAY THAT THE SHORTEST  
DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO  
POINTS IS A STRAIGHT LINE.

BUT THAT'S  
NOT HOW  
ARROWS TRAVEL.

HAWKEYE,  
CLOCKING IN!

...WIND SPEED  
NIL...TARGETS  
MOVING AT--



THERE'S ALWAYS  
AN ARC.

AND THAT'S MY  
LIFE. UP AND  
DOWN. NEVER IN  
A STRAIGHT LINE.



STRAIGHT LINES  
ARE EASY. POINT  
AND SHOOT.

BUT AN ARC IS  
COMPLICATED. ALIVE.  
UNPREDICTABLE.

COME ON,  
COME ON...



AND NOW, MORE THAN EVER,  
I'M REMINDED OF THE BIGGEST  
POINT OF COMPARISON:

AN ARROW'S  
ARC *ENDS*. SO  
DOES A LIFE.





SO WE'RE  
DOING *THIS* AGAIN,  
ARE WE?

MY "FATHER"  
IS A BASTARD.

AND I TAKE  
AFTER HIM.



ASK MY  
EX-WIFE.

ASK OUR  
CHILD.



THERE IS *ONE*  
PERSON LEFT  
WHO LOVES ME.

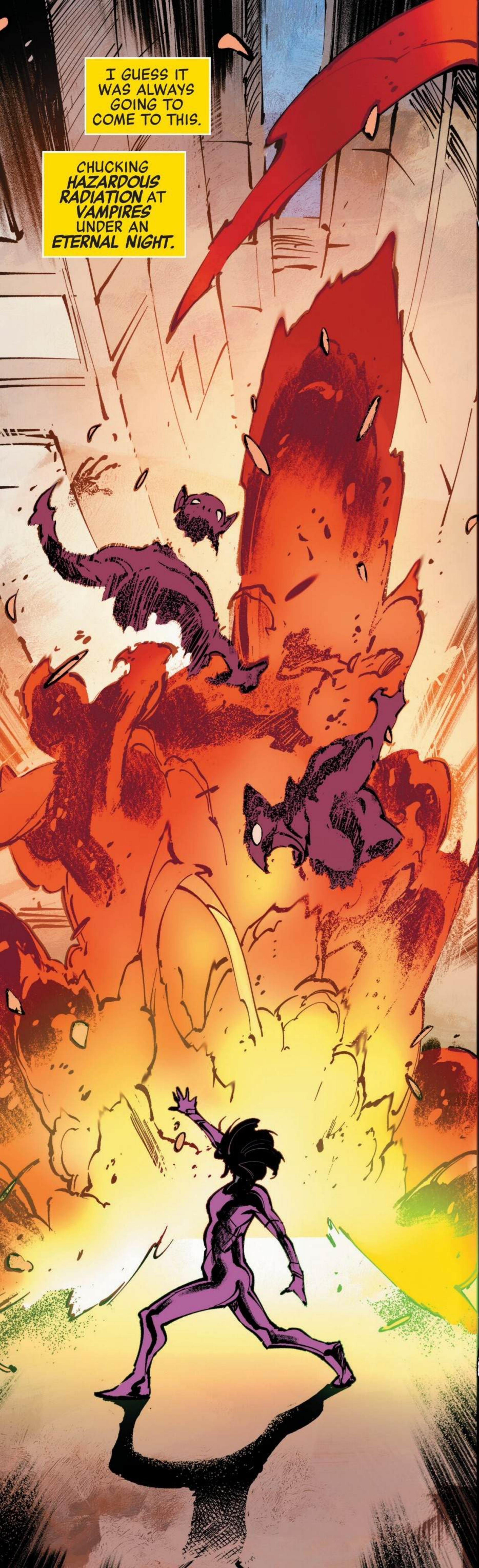
MY *SISTER*, THE *SCARLET*  
WITCH. A *PRISONER* OF  
THOSE WHO HAVE DONE  
THIS TO THE WORLD.

SO I REJOIN  
MY *OTHER* FAMILY.  
THE *AVENGERS*.



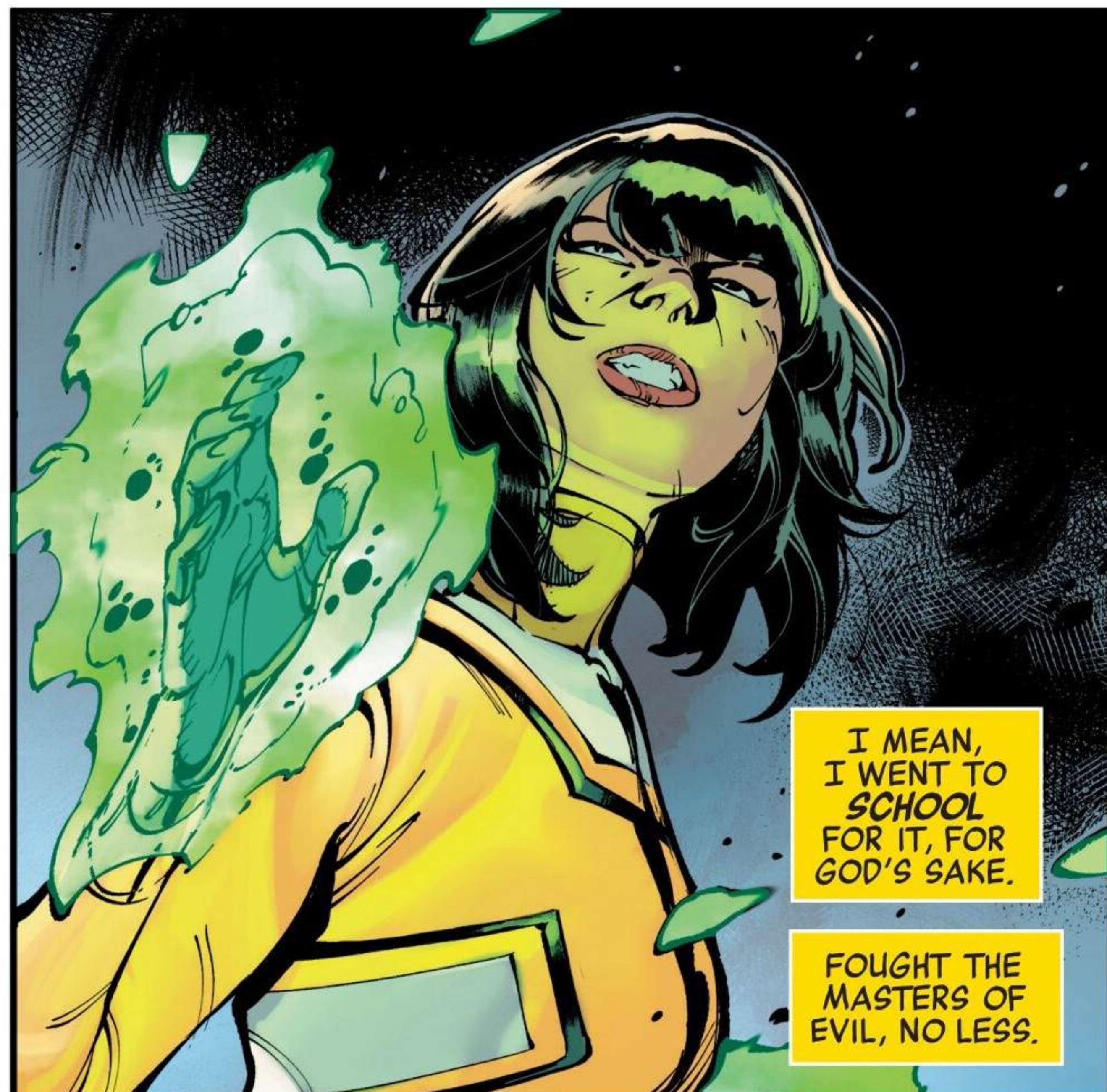
AND I KILL AS MANY  
VAMPIRES AS I CAN UNTIL  
I AM ABLE TO REACH THOSE  
WHO HAVE TAKEN MY SISTER.





I GUESS IT  
WAS ALWAYS  
GOING TO  
COME TO THIS.

CHUCKING  
HAZARDOUS  
RADIATION AT  
VAMPIRES  
UNDER AN  
ETERNAL NIGHT.



I MEAN,  
I WENT TO  
**SCHOOL**  
FOR IT, FOR  
GOD'S SAKE.

FOUGHT THE  
MASTERS OF  
EVIL, NO LESS.



I EVEN PALLED AROUND WITH  
CAPTAIN MARVEL, AND  
SHE **RUNS** THE WHOLE GANG.



I SUPPOSE I'D  
BETTER JUST  
ACCEPT IT.

I'M AN  
**AVENGER**  
NOW.

GOD.



AVENGERS!  
SOUND OFF!

HAZMAT  
REPORTING  
ALL CLEAR! SIR,  
YES, SIR!

TURNS OUT  
IF YOU TWEAK  
U.V. RADIATION *JUST  
RIGHT*, IT'S THE NEXT  
BEST THING TO  
*SUNLIGHT*.

I'M  
GOOD.

I AM  
VICTORIOUS!

I AM  
IMPATIENT.

OUTSTANDING.

SOME OF  
YOU HAVE WORKED  
TOGETHER BEFORE, SOME  
OF YOU HAVEN'T. BUT YOU'VE  
ALL BEEN *AVENGERS*  
BEFORE, IN ONE FORM  
OR ANOTHER.

YOU KNOW  
TO WATCH EACH  
OTHER'S BACKS.  
WE'RE GOING TO  
*NEED* THAT.

THANK YOU  
FOR COMING  
WHEN I  
CALLED.









THE VAMPIRES WE'VE SEEN HAVE BEEN **TERROR TROOPS**-- THEY'RE NOT ORGANIZED BEYOND CAUSING **CHAOS** AND **FEAR**.

WHICH SERVES THE AIMS OF WHOEVER **STARTED THIS**.

BUT THERE'S ALSO AN **ORGANIZED** FACTION AT WORK.



THE WILD VAMPIRES ARE DANGEROUS, BUT AN **ORGANIZATION** IS EVEN **MORE SO**.

THEY'VE BEEN ROUNDING UP PEOPLE LIKE **CATTLE**. DRIVING THEM IN **HERDS**.



BUT TO WHAT **END**, CAPTAIN?

I THINK IT MIGHT BE THE **BLOOD**, GENIUS.



THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT, **HERC**.

THOUGH, YES, I DO THINK IT PROBABLY HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH **BLOOD**.



PIETRO, I BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE FASTER ON FOOT.

YOU BELIEVE **CORRECTLY**.



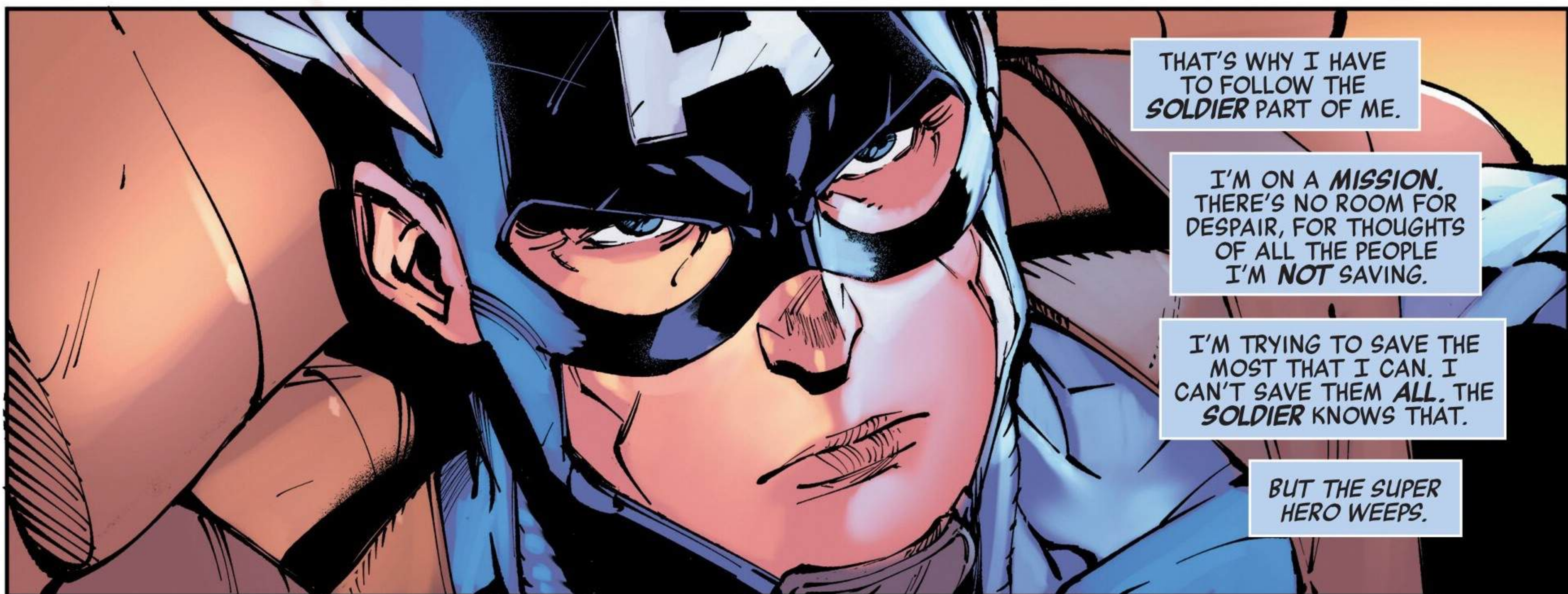


THEN  
LET'S  
GO.

THIS CITY IS  
IN CHAOS.

PEOPLE  
ARE DYING.

THE *SUPER HERO*  
PART OF ME  
KNOWS I CAN'T  
SAVE EVERYONE.



THAT'S WHY I HAVE  
TO FOLLOW THE  
*SOLDIER* PART OF ME.

I'M ON A *MISSION*.  
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR  
DESPAIR, FOR THOUGHTS  
OF ALL THE PEOPLE  
I'M *NOT* SAVING.

I'M TRYING TO SAVE THE  
MOST THAT I CAN. I  
CAN'T SAVE THEM *ALL*. THE  
*SOLDIER* KNOWS THAT.

BUT THE *SUPER  
HERO* WEEPS.









GET CLOSER TOGETHER! GET CLOSER UNLESS YOU WANT THE PROD--



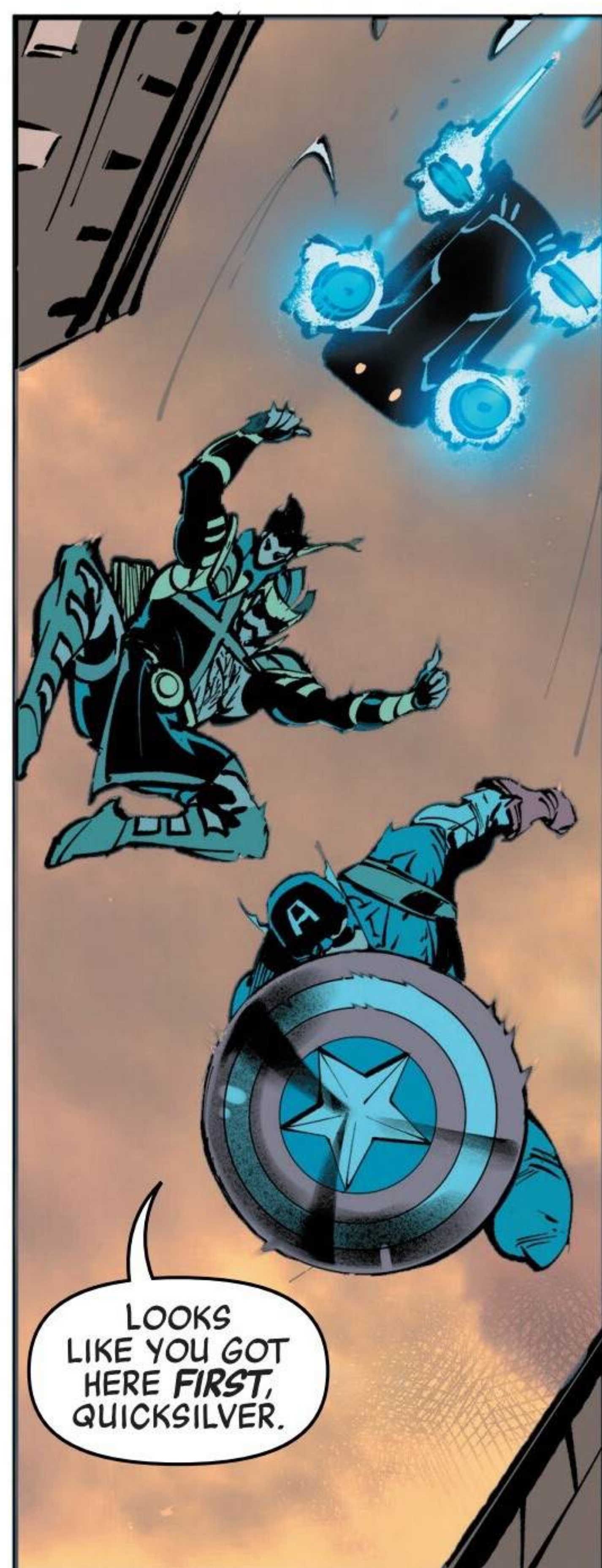
AKK!



LET ME MAKE SOMETHING CLEAR:

THIS IS **NOT** ME GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO **SURRENDER**--NOT DRESSED LIKE THAT.

I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU A MOMENT TO BE AFRAID.



LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT HERE **FIRST**, QUICKSILVER.



I ALWAYS DO.



THE WORLD  
MAY BE ENDING.

AND I KNOW  
I SHOULD BE  
FRIGHTENED.

MAYBE I  
WOULD BE, IF IT  
WERE JUST *ME*.

THAT'S THE  
THING ABOUT  
BEING A SOLDIER:

YOU'RE NEVER  
ALONE. YOU STAND  
SHOULDER TO  
SHOULDER WITH  
YOUR COMRADES.

THAT'S ALSO THE  
THING ABOUT BEING  
AN *AVENGER*.

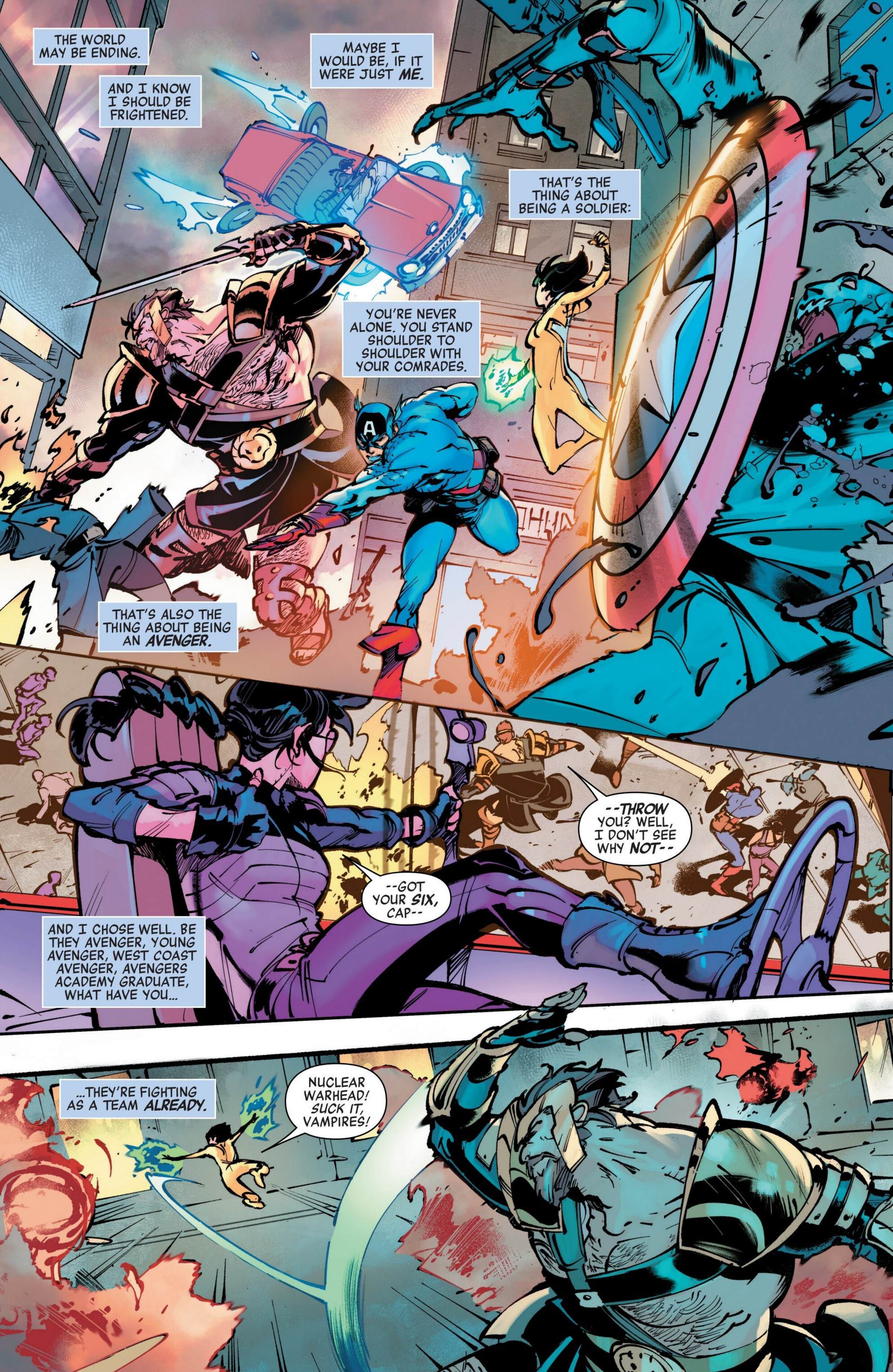
AND I CHOSE WELL. BE  
THEY AVENGER, YOUNG  
AVENGER, WEST COAST  
AVENGER, AVENGERS  
ACADEMY GRADUATE,  
WHAT HAVE YOU...

--GOT  
YOUR SIX,  
CAP--

--THROW  
YOU? WELL,  
I DON'T SEE  
WHY NOT--

...THEY'RE FIGHTING  
AS A TEAM *ALREADY*.

NUCLEAR  
WARHEAD!  
SUCK IT,  
VAMPIRES!





WHAT--

WHAT IS  
WRONG WITH YOUR  
**SHIELD?** IT'S NOT  
FLYING RIGHT.

THIS ISN'T  
MY **USUAL** ONE--  
IT'S NOT AS WELL MADE,  
SO IT DOESN'T FLY QUITE  
AS TRUE, BUT I'M  
GETTING USED  
TO IT.

IT'S EDGED IN  
**SILVER**. I HAD IT  
MADE AFTER I WAS  
TURNED INTO A  
**WEREWOLF**.

A  
**WEREWOLF?**

IT  
HAPPENS!

I MYSELF  
WAS TURNED INTO  
A **SPIDER-MAN**  
ONCE!

...THIS IS A  
TERRIBLE JOB,  
I'M QUITTING.

HEY!

DOES  
ANYONE ELSE  
WANT TO KNOW  
WHERE THE **NAZI**  
**VAMPIRES** CAME  
FROM?

NAZIS,  
VAMPIRES, WHAT'S  
THE **DIFFERENCE?**

**PARASITES**  
OBSESSED WITH  
**BL--**

**URK!**



ON THE  
CONTRARY,  
MUTIE.

ACTUALLY--

WE  
REPRESENT  
A **CONSISTENT**  
IDEOLOGY.

A **MASTER**  
RACE, PUTTING THE  
**UNDER-MEN** WHERE  
THEY DESERVE TO BE:  
AS **LIVESTO--**

--GKK--

HM.

WELL.

LOOKS LIKE I GOT  
THE HANG OF IT  
AFTER ALL.

THEY **HAD** TO  
TRANSCRIBE THE  
DARKHOLD, DIDN'T  
THEY? THEY **HAD** TO  
CREATE THE **FIRST**  
VAMPIRE.

AND NOW  
LOOK WHAT'S  
HAPPENED.

UGH.

ALL OF THIS,  
THE FAULT OF  
ATLANTIS.

PULL!





LET'S NOT  
GET CARRIED  
AWAY.

I'VE KNOWN  
**GOOD** VAMPIRES.  
PEOPLE WHO NEVER **ASKED**  
FOR THIS CURSE, WHO DON'T  
INFLECT THEIR PAIN AND  
HUNGER ON OTHERS.

BUT I'VE  
NEVER KNOWN  
A **GOOD** NAZI.



WELL, IT'S  
NOT LIKE YOU  
**TURN INTO** A  
NAZI IF ONE  
**BITES** YOU.

...RIGHT?



NOT IN MY  
EXPERIENCE,  
NO.

AND THAT'S...



...THE **BALL**  
**GAME.**



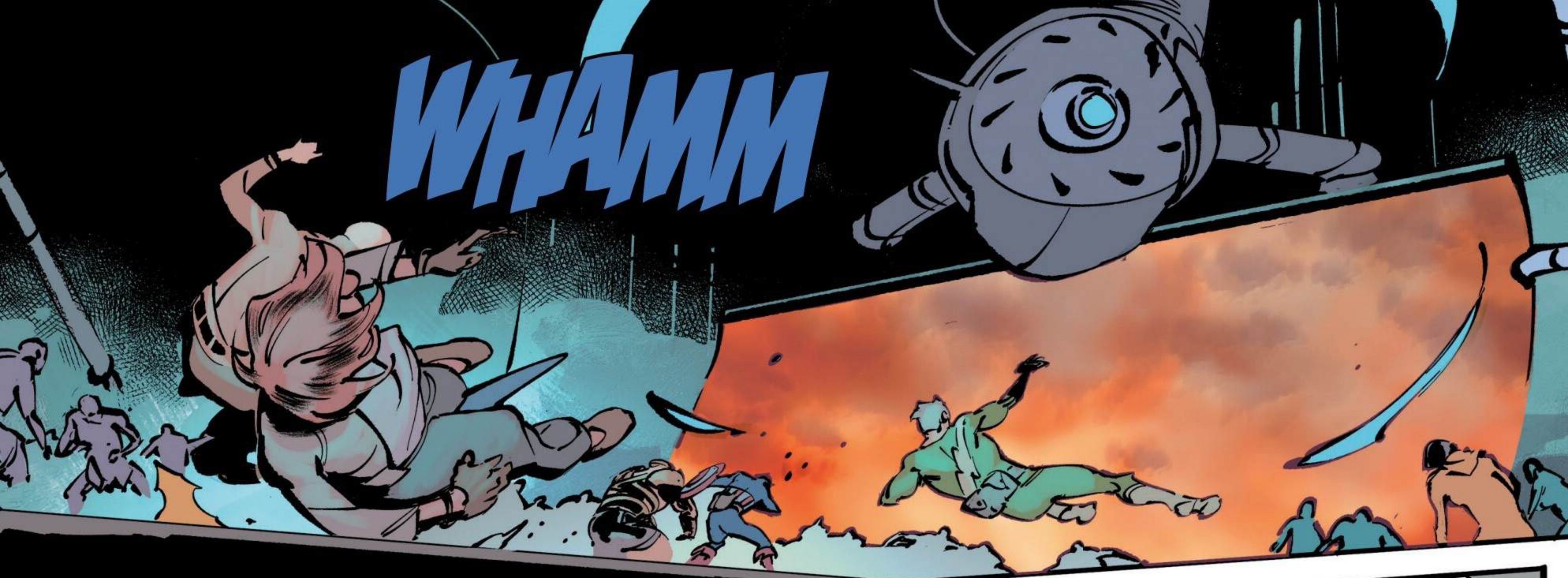






...IT'S A  
VORTEX  
BEAM!





STAY SHARP,  
AVENGERS.

FORM A  
PERIMETER  
AROUND THE  
CIVILIANS--



A HELICARRIER.

WHERE THE  
HELL DID A  
HELICARRIER  
COME FROM?

I DON'T  
KNOW, BUT  
I'LL TELL YOU  
WHERE IT'S  
GOING:

STRAIGHT  
DOWN ONCE I  
E.M.P. THE GUTS  
OUT OF IT.



A TRUE  
WARRIOR'S  
SPIRIT, I  
GRANT YOU...

...BUT PERHAPS  
A BIT *PERILOUS*  
FOR THE CITY  
*BENEATH* US?

AND FOR ALL  
OF THE *PEOPLE*  
ABDUCTED *WITH* US...  
AND FOR *US*...

WELL.

I SUPPOSE  
I SHOULD HAVE  
EXPECTED YOU,  
CAPTAIN  
AMERICA.

YOU. I  
KNEW IT WOULD  
BE YOU.

EVERY TIME  
I, OR SOMEONE  
LIKE ME, HAVE TRIED TO  
DELIVER *THIS* PARTICULAR  
BABY INTO THE WORLD,  
YOU HAVE BEEN THERE  
TO KILL IT IN ITS  
*CRIB*.

BUT *THIS* TIME,  
CAPTAIN AMERICA...  
NOBLE *FASCISM* WILL  
BE BIRTHED IN *AMERICA*,  
AND IT WILL BE *ME* WHO  
WELCOMES IT INTO  
THE WORLD.





YOU  
SEE...

...IT'S IN MY  
**BLOOD.**









LEAVE THE  
CATTLE, BUT KILL  
THE HEROES!

NO MATTER  
HOW LONG AGO  
MY WAR WAS...

...IT ALWAYS COMES  
BACK TO *HAUNT* ME. BUT  
I SUPPOSE THAT'S  
ALWAYS BEEN A TRUTH:

HEROES  
MAY DIE...

KILL THE  
AVENGERS  
FOR BARON  
BLOOD!

...BUT THE  
MONSTERS  
ALWAYS  
COME BACK.





SO YOU TWO *KNOW* EACH OTHER.

ARE YOU SURPRISED THAT I KNOW A NAZI VAMPIRE, HAWKEYE?

WELL, NO, I SUPPOSE NOT.

THIS IS AN OMEN, CAPTAIN AMERICA. THIS IS A *GIFT*.

ON THE EVE OF AMERICA'S DEATH, TO HAVE HER CHAMPION DELIVERED TO ME?

SO THAT I MIGHT MAKE YOU *FINALLY* ONE OF *US*?

YOU'LL WEAR MY FLAG SOON EN--



*TSSSSSS*

--YAAAH!

SORRY, BARON...



...I MAY HAVE SWAPPED MY SHIELD FOR ONE EDGED WITH *SILVER*...

...BUT DESPITE EVERYTHING, *THIS* FLAG STILL SUITS ME.



LET US  
SEE ABOUT  
THAT.

I AM  
CREATING A  
NEW WORLD,  
CAPTAIN  
AMERICA.

I WILL  
CREATE YOU  
ANEW AS  
WELL.

LISTEN. I'M  
GOING TO DRAW  
BARON BLOOD AWAY,  
LEAVING HIS GOONS  
DISORGANIZED.

BUT THEN  
WON'T WE BE  
DISORGANIZED?

YOU'RE  
AVENGERS.

WE'RE ONE  
DECK UP FROM THE  
ESCAPE CAPSULES. GET  
THESE PEOPLE THERE  
AND JETTISON THEM  
TO SAFETY.

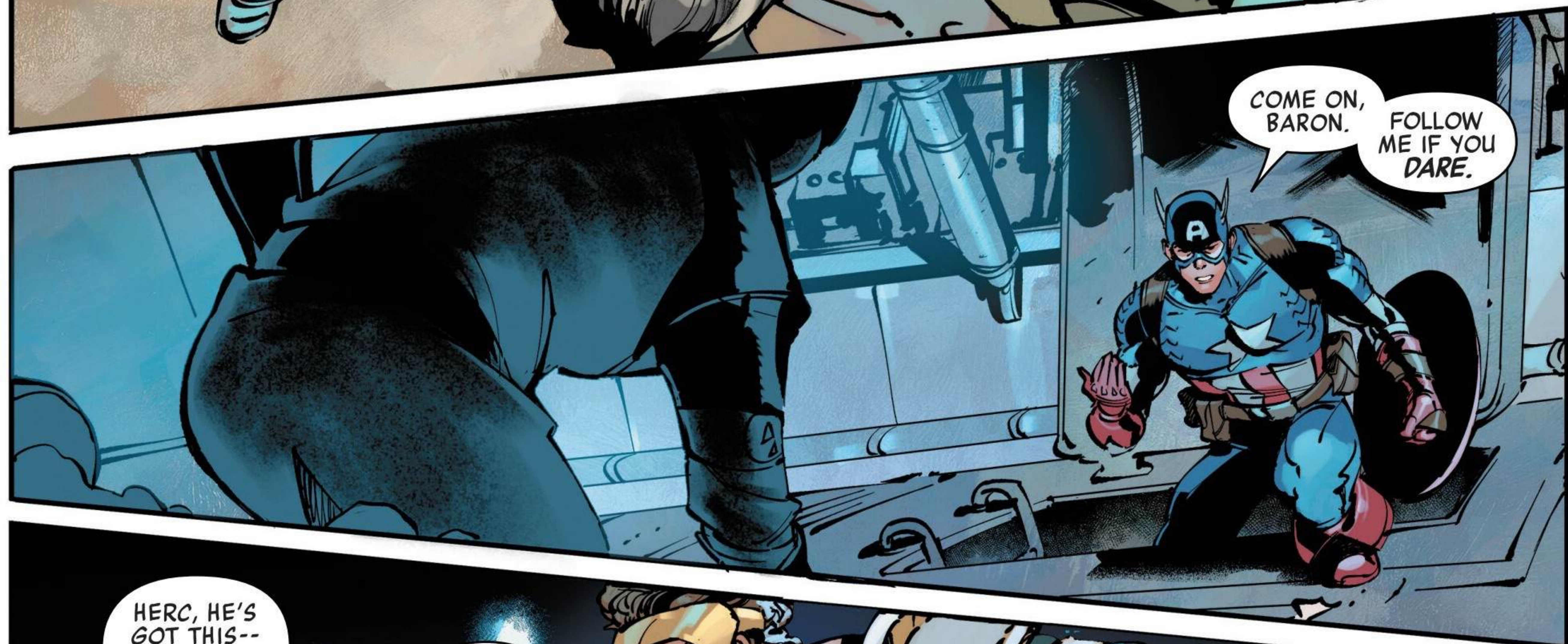
BRING  
IT ON,  
BARON!

BRACE  
YOURSELF,  
CAPTAIN!

I'VE  
WAITED FOR  
THIS SINCE  
1942!

FLANG





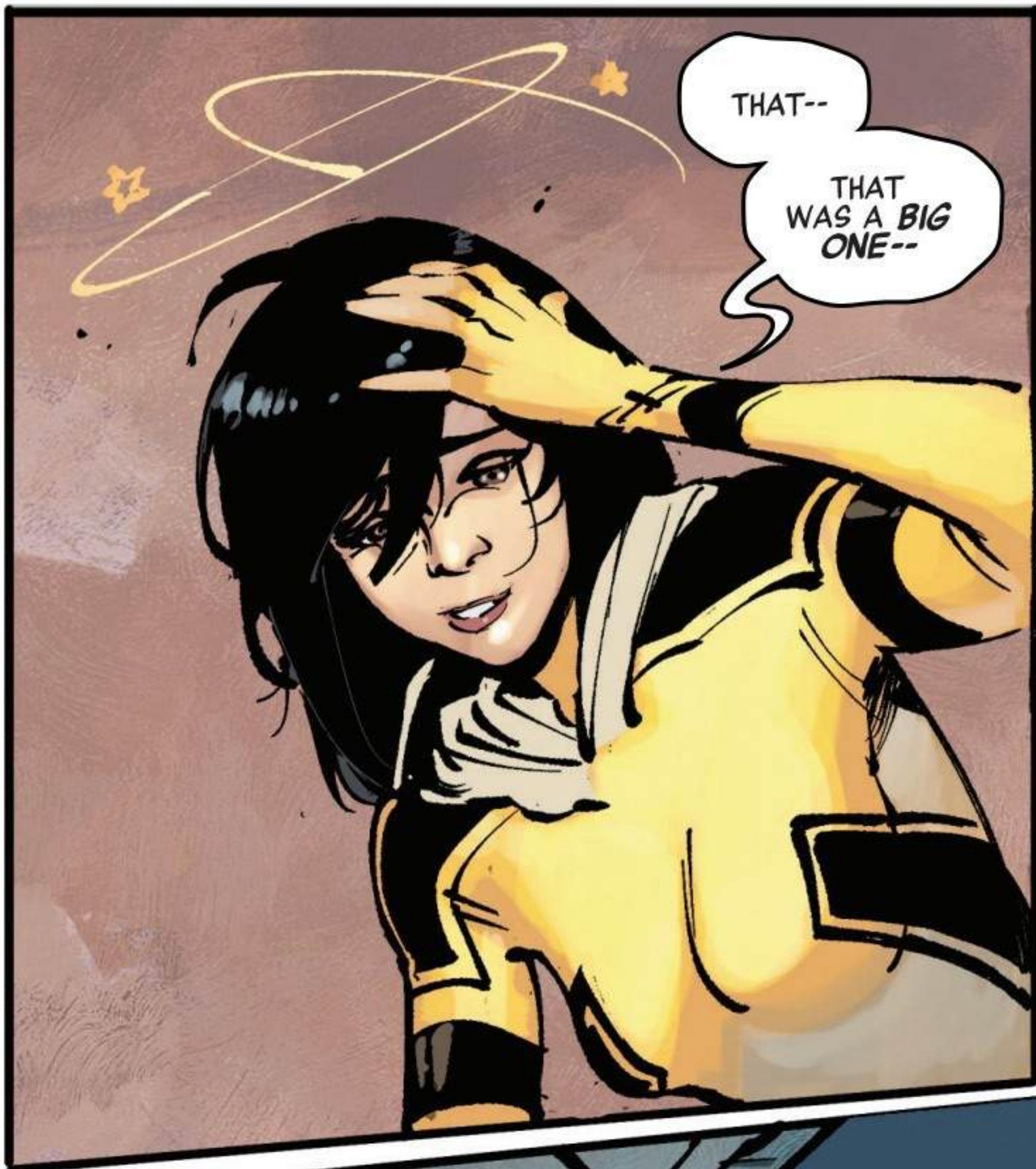




HOPE NO  
ONE MINDS  
A BIT OF A  
SUNTAN!

RAAACHH!!!





THAT--  
THAT WAS A **BIG**  
**ONE--**



WELL  
**DONE, SMALL**  
**ONE!**  
DON'T  
CALL ME  
THAT.  
CAP SAYS  
WE GOTTA GET  
THESE PEOPLE TO  
THE ESCAPE CRAFT.  
ONE DECK  
DOWN.



HAHA!  
**SPLendid!**

HEY...WHERE'S  
**QUICKSILVER?**



"QUICKSILVER?"



"I BELIEVE  
HE'S COVERING  
OUR **RETREAT.**"

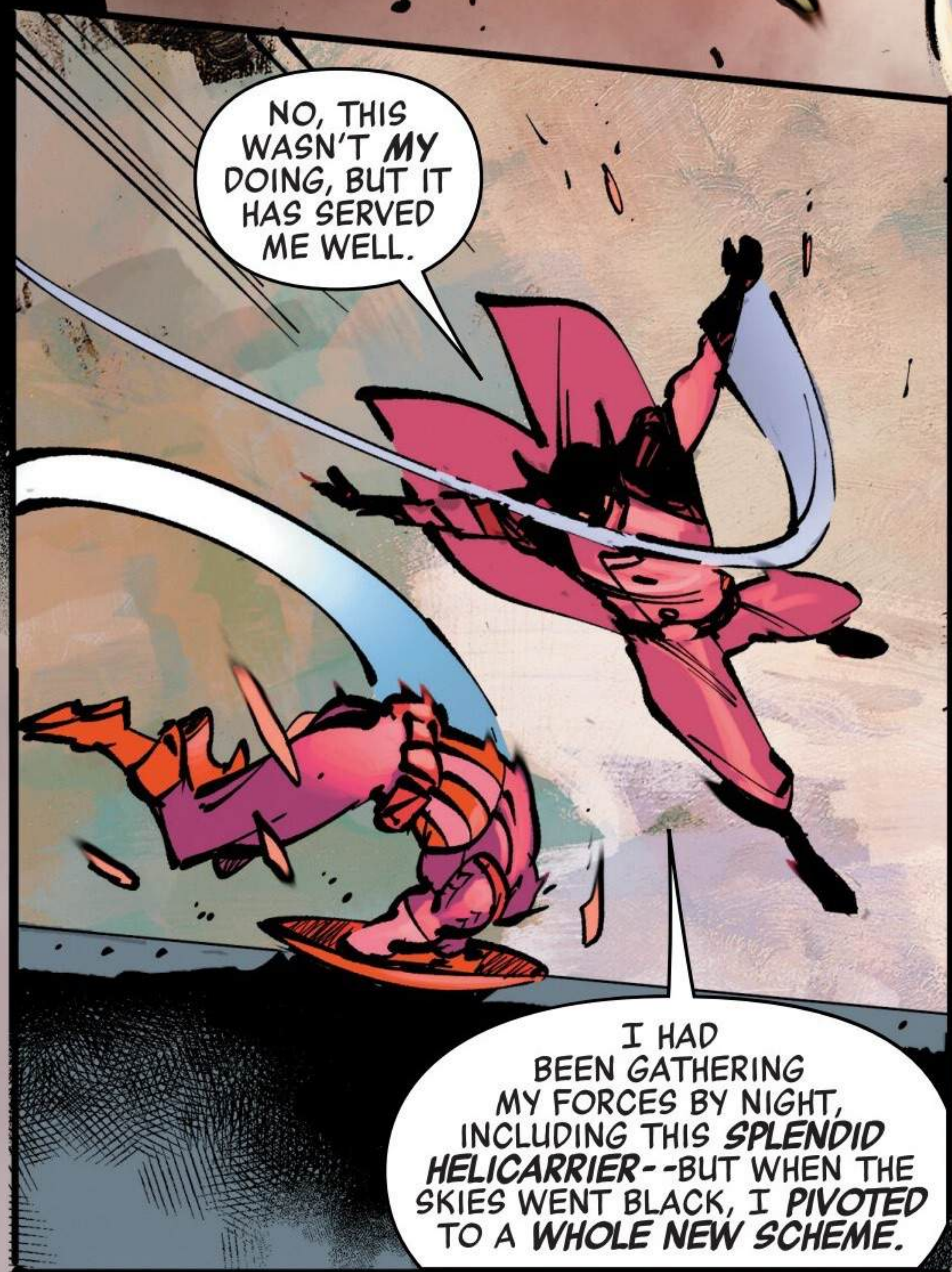




DON'T TELL ME **YOU'RE** BEHIND THE DARKENED SKIES, BLOOD.

OF COURSE NOT. THOUGH I **DO** LIKE IT.

REMINDS ME OF DEAR OLD **ENGLAND**.



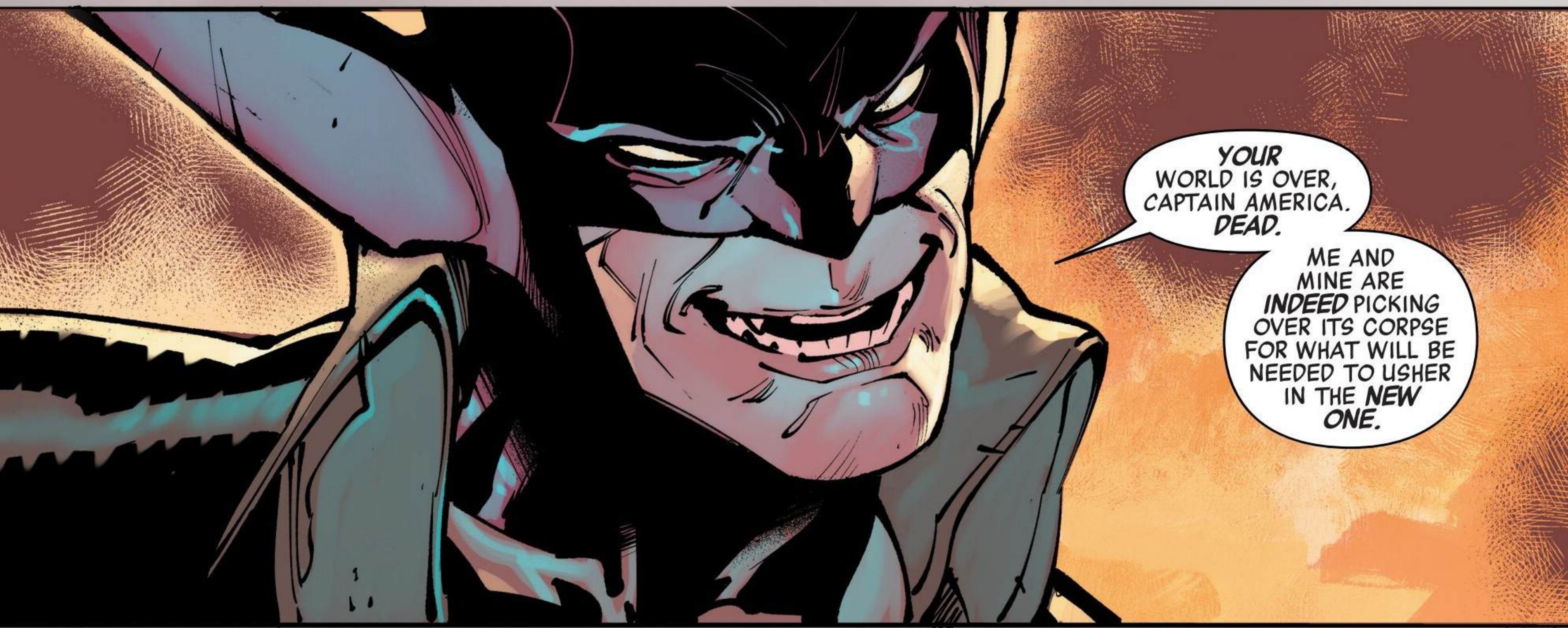
NO, THIS WASN'T **MY** DOING, BUT IT HAS SERVED ME WELL.

I HAD BEEN GATHERING MY FORCES BY NIGHT, INCLUDING THIS **SPLENDID** **HELICARRIER**--BUT WHEN THE SKIES WENT BLACK, I **PIVOTED** TO A **WHOLE NEW SCHEME**.



EVER THE OPPORTUNISTIC **BUZZARD**.

HA!  
YOU SEEK TO **WOUND** ME, CAPTAIN, BUT I WILL **ACCEPT** YOUR JUDGMENT.



**YOUR** WORLD IS OVER, CAPTAIN AMERICA. **DEAD**.

ME AND MINE ARE **INDEED** PICKING OVER ITS CORPSE FOR WHAT WILL BE NEEDED TO USHER IN THE **NEW ONE**.





WITH YOU  
AT THE TOP,  
I GATHER?

OF  
COURSE. WHO  
BETTER?

I WAS **BORN**  
TO **NOBILITY**,  
CAPTAIN, BORN TO  
**LEAD**. AND EVER HAS  
**FASCISM** BEEN  
MY PURSUIT.



YOU'VE  
GOT YOUR **SUCKHEAD**  
**BLACKSHIRTS**, YOUR  
**HELICARRIER BASE**...ALL  
THAT'S LEFT IS TO **STOCK**  
THE **LARDER**.

THAT'S  
WHY YOU'RE  
**KIDNAPPING** PEOPLE.  
TO **WAIT OUT**  
THE **CHAOS**...

...AND PUT  
A RUINED WORLD  
TO **RIGHTS**.

IT'LL TAKE MORE  
THAN DARK SKIES AND  
VAMPIRES TO PUT DOWN  
**HUMANITY**, BARON.

THE AVENGERS,  
DOCTOR STRANGE...  
THEY'LL STOP THE  
**VAMPIRES**.

JUST LIKE  
MY PEOPLE AND  
I ARE GOING TO  
STOP YOU.



OH,  
CAPTAIN...

...CAN'T  
YOU SEE THAT  
WATCHING YOU  
**TRY** IS HALF  
THE **FUN**?





OKAY!

EVERYONE  
INTO THE ESCAPE  
PODS!



WAIT,  
WHAT IF  
WE'RE OVER  
WATER BY  
NOW?



THESE ARE S.H.I.E.L.D.  
HELICARRIER PODS, HAZMAT--  
THEY FLOAT, ARE PACKED  
WITH SUPPLIES, AND CARRY  
EMERGENCY BAND  
TRANSPONDERS.



CHECK OUT  
WIKIPEDIA BROWN  
OVER HERE. WHAT, DID  
YOU WANT TO BE A  
S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT  
WHEN YOU  
GREW UP?

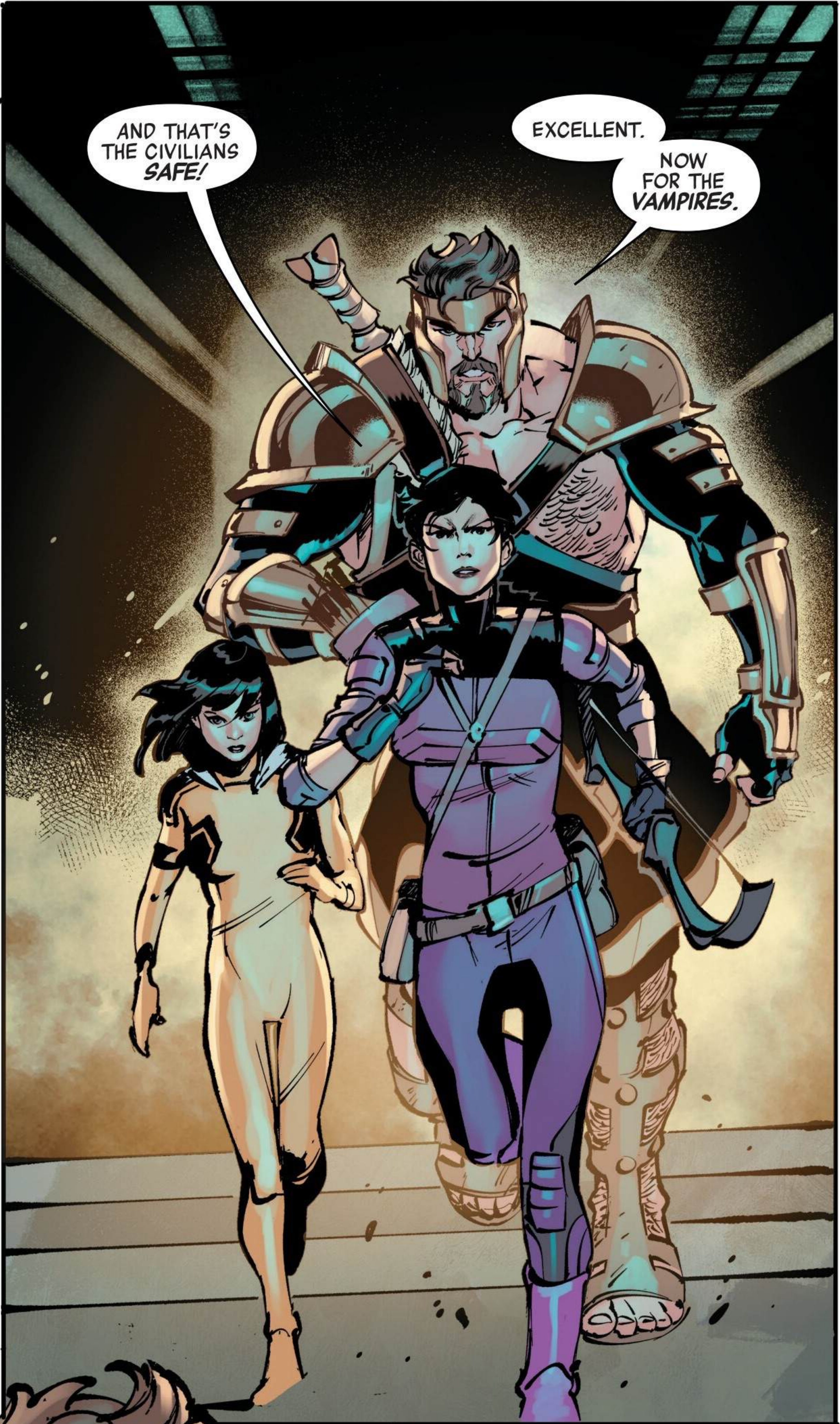


**FOURTH GRADE.**



MAYBE.





AND THAT'S  
THE CIVILIANS  
SAFE!

EXCELLENT.

NOW  
FOR THE  
VAMPIRES.

CAPTAIN  
AMERICA! IT IS  
I, HERCULES!

WE ARE  
COMING TO  
YOUR AID!

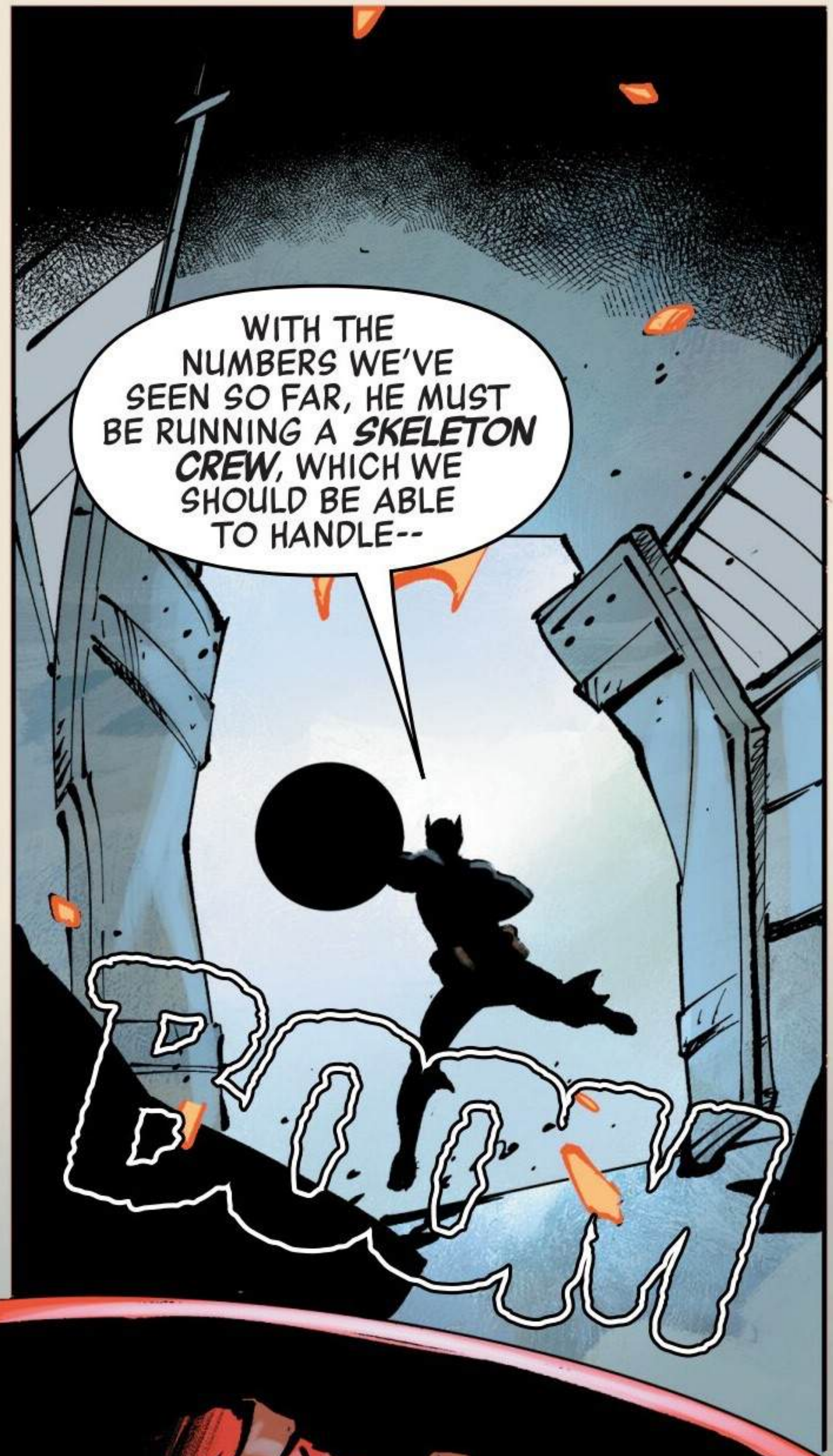




ARE THE INNOCENTS SAFE?

AYE!

OUTSTANDING. I'VE GOT BARON BLOOD ON MY TAIL-- WE NEED TO NEUTRALIZE HIM AND THE OTHER VAMPIRES AND THEN TAKE CONTROL OF THIS SHIP.



WITH THE NUMBERS WE'VE SEEN SO FAR, HE MUST BE RUNNING A *SKELETON CREW*, WHICH WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE--



"SKELETON CREW."

HOW VERY DROLL.

UNH!



WHAT CAN I SAY? I ALWAYS LIKED VAUDEVILLE.

YOU'D HAVE FIT RIGHT IN.



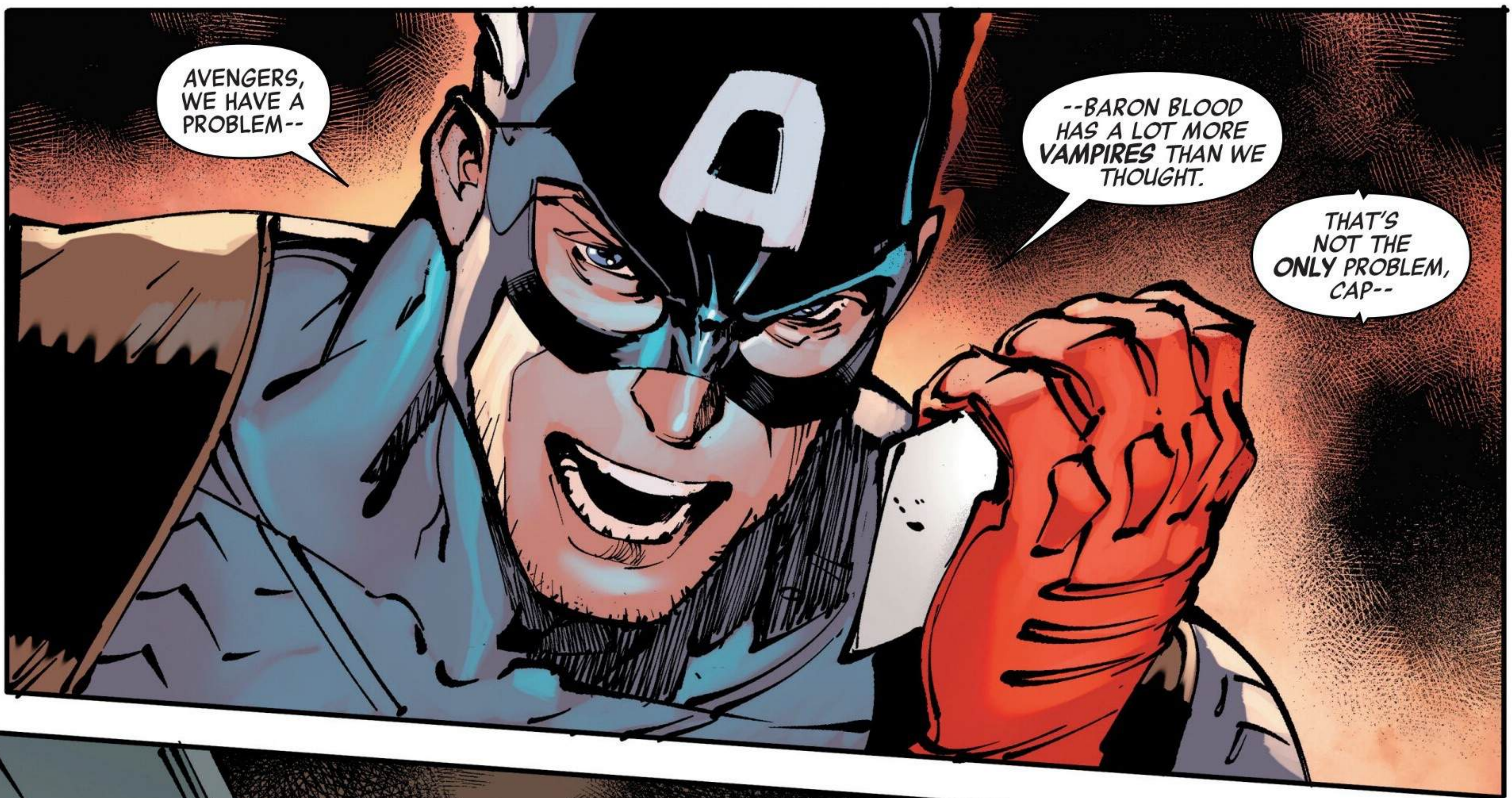
VAUDEVILLE? UGH.

HOW VERY COMMON, CAPTAIN. BUT THAT *HAS* ALWAYS BEEN YOUR WAY.









AVENGERS,  
WE HAVE A  
PROBLEM--

--BARON BLOOD  
HAS A LOT MORE  
VAMPIRES THAN WE  
THOUGHT.

THAT'S  
NOT THE  
ONLY PROBLEM,  
CAP--



--HE'S ALSO  
GOT A LOT MORE  
PRISONERS THAN  
WE THOUGHT.





SO, UH, A  
QUESTION FOR  
OUR RESIDENT  
HELICARRIER  
EXPERT...

HOW MANY  
ESCAPE PODS  
DOES THIS TUB  
HAVE?

...  
...NOT  
ENOUGH.

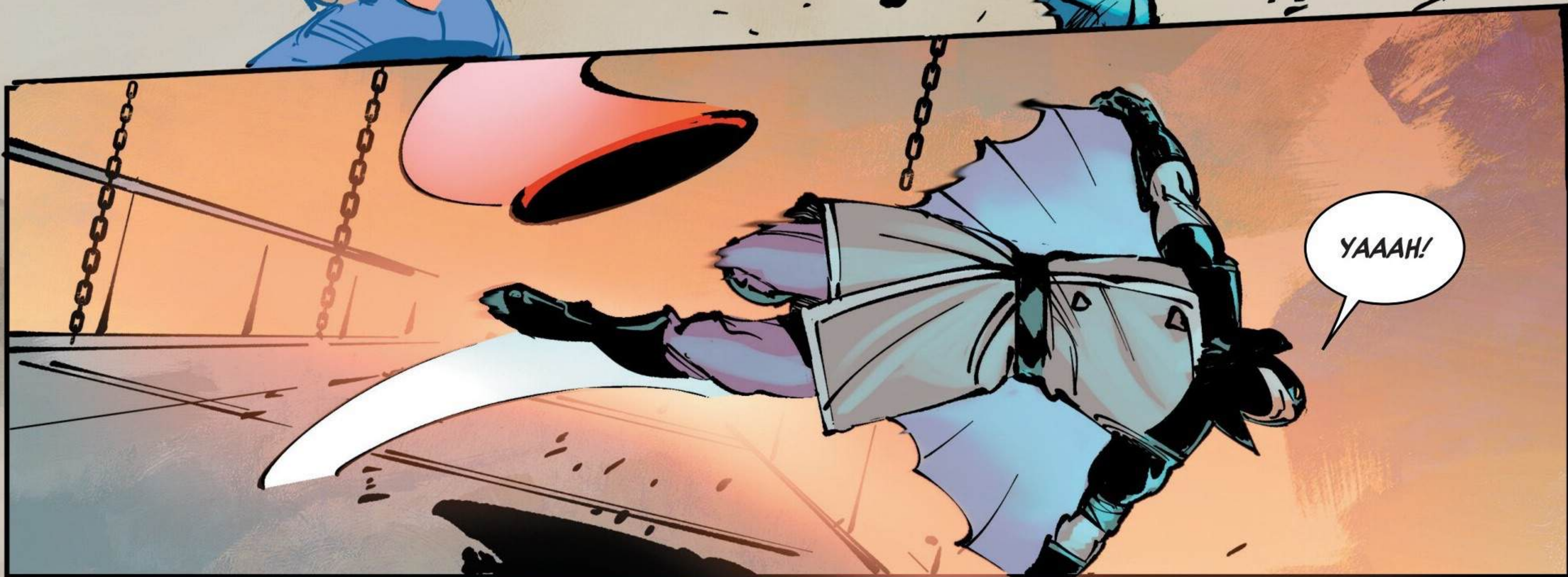


FACE FRONT,  
AVENGERS!

WE HAVEN'T  
LOST THIS ONE  
YET.



NOT  
BY A LONG  
SHOT.



YAAAAH!







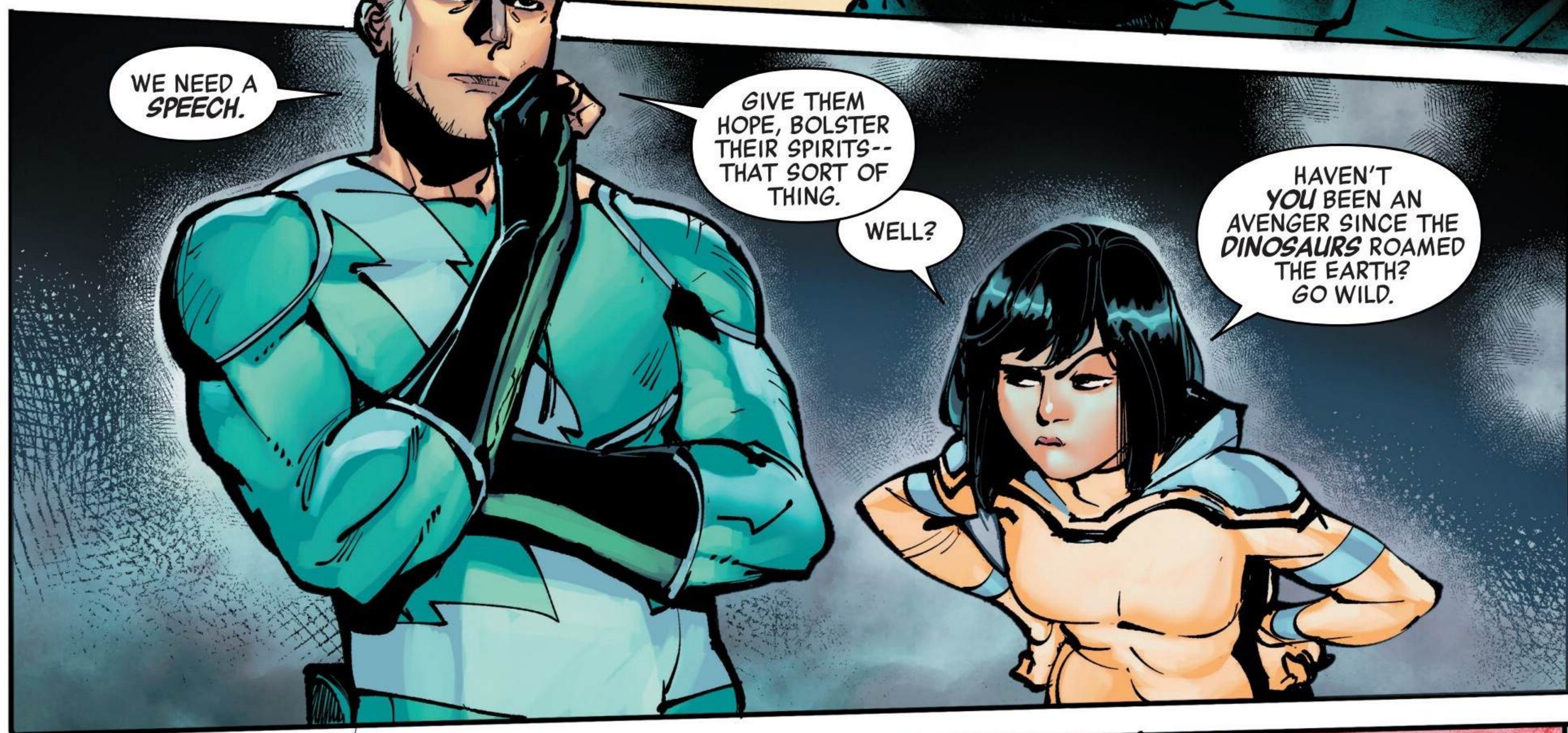


AVENGERS!

THE  
CIVILIANS ARE  
TOP PRIORITY!

AYE,  
CAPTAIN!

BUT  
FEAR GRIPS  
THEM!



WE NEED A  
SPEECH.

GIVE THEM  
HOPE, BOLSTER  
THEIR SPIRITS--  
THAT SORT OF  
THING.

WELL?

HAVEN'T  
YOU BEEN AN  
AVENGER SINCE THE  
DINOSAURS ROAMED  
THE EARTH?  
GO WILD.

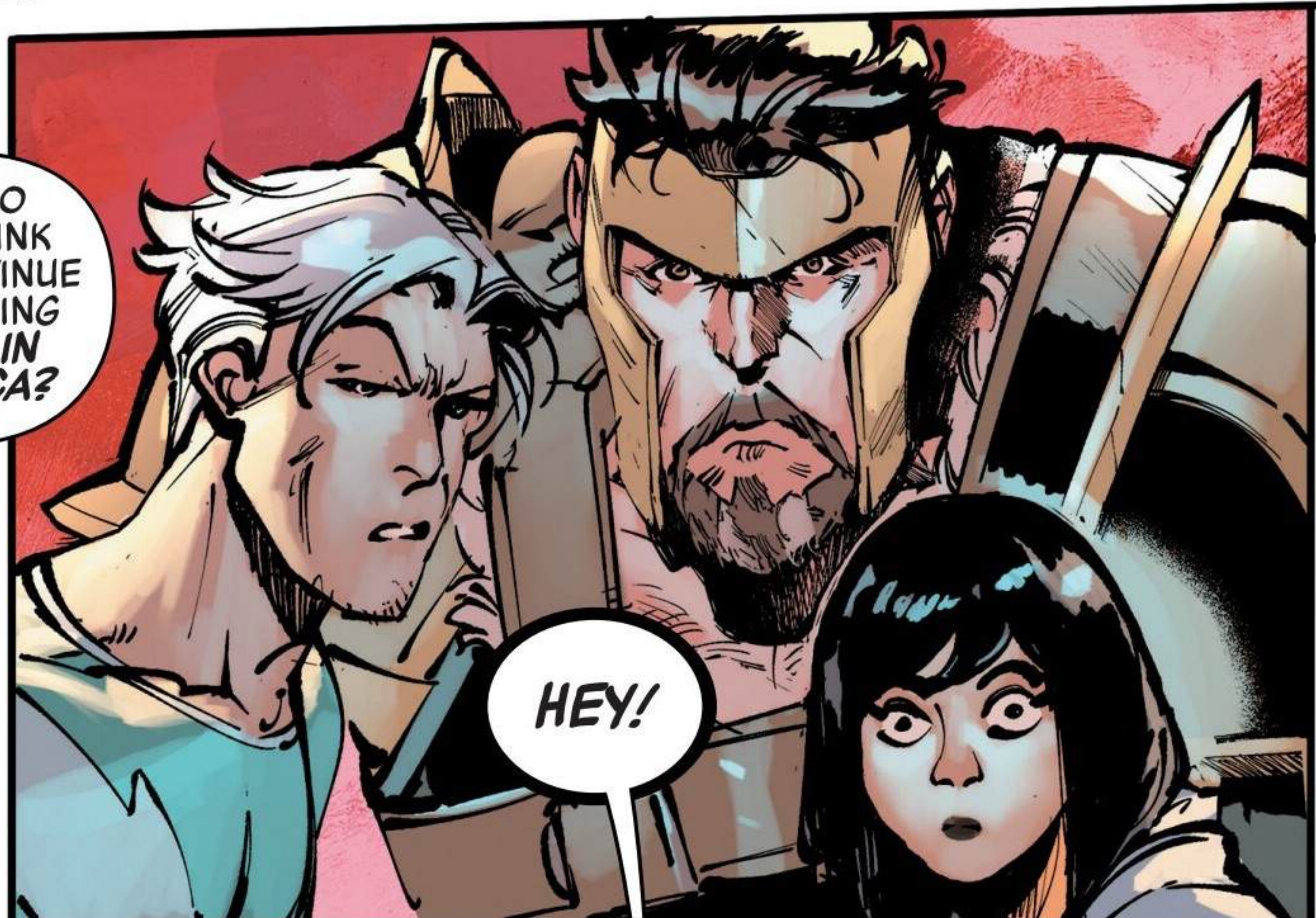


DINOSAURS *STILL*  
ROAM THE EARTH.  
IN THE *SAVAGE*  
LAND.

OH  
FOR GOD'S  
SAKE--

I AM ABOUT  
AS WELL SUITED  
FOR *SPEECHES* AS  
YOU ARE--IT HAS  
NEVER BEEN MY  
SPECIALTY.

WHY DO  
YOU THINK  
WE CONTINUE  
FOLLOWING  
CAPTAIN  
AMERICA?



HEY!





LISTEN UP.

I KNOW YOU'RE ALL SCARED. I *KNOW* THIS HAS BEEN TOUGH ON YOU.

I KNOW BECAUSE I'M IN THE SAME BOAT AS ALL OF YOU.

I DON'T HAVE ANY *SUPER-POWERS*, JUST LIKE YOU.

BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING *BETTER*, AND SO DO YOU.



WE'VE GOT THE *AVENGERS*.

AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP YOU *SAFE*, WHATEVER IT TAKES.

WHATEVER CREEPY-CRAWLIES THERE ARE ON THIS HELICARRIER, THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET THROUGH *US* FIRST.



HERCULES IS A *LIVING GOD*.

QUICKSILVER MOVES *FASTER* (AND HAS A *WORSE ATTITUDE*) THAN ANY BLOODSUCKER.

HMPH.

HAZMAT HERE HAS *DEEP-FRIED* MORE *VAMPIRES* TONIGHT THAN THE *COLONEL* HAS DONE *CHICKENS*.

AND THAT'S NOT EVEN COUNTING *CAPTAIN AMERICA*, WHO THE ENTIRE *WEHRMACHT* COULDN'T KILL.



BUT  
WHAT ABOUT  
YOU?

YOU  
DON'T HAVE ANY  
POWERS!

ME? I'M  
A MANHATTAN  
SOCIALITE WHO USES  
**ONE STICK** TO SHOOT  
OTHER, **SMALLER**  
**STICKS.**

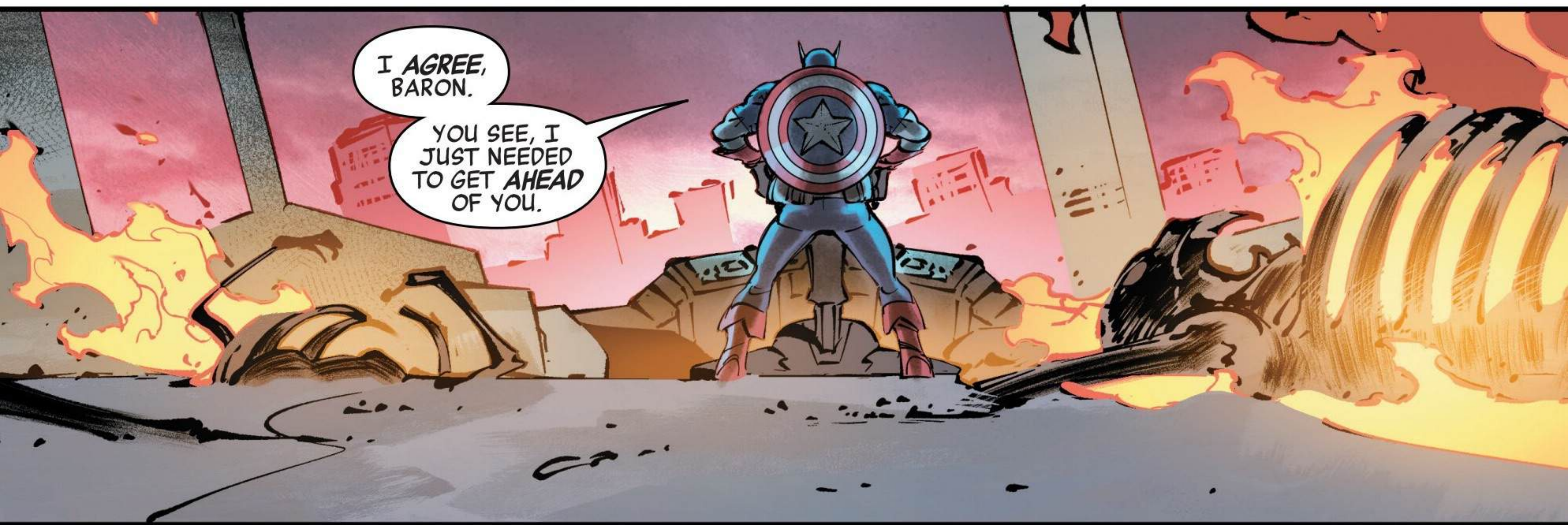
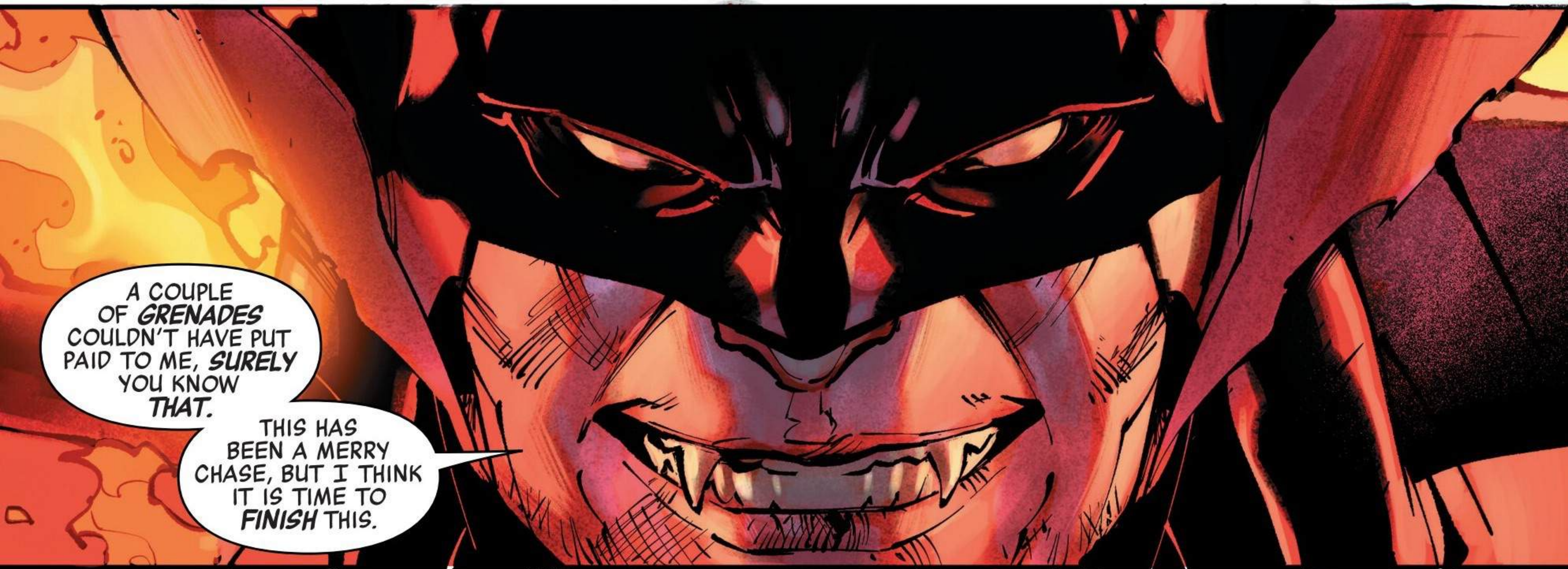
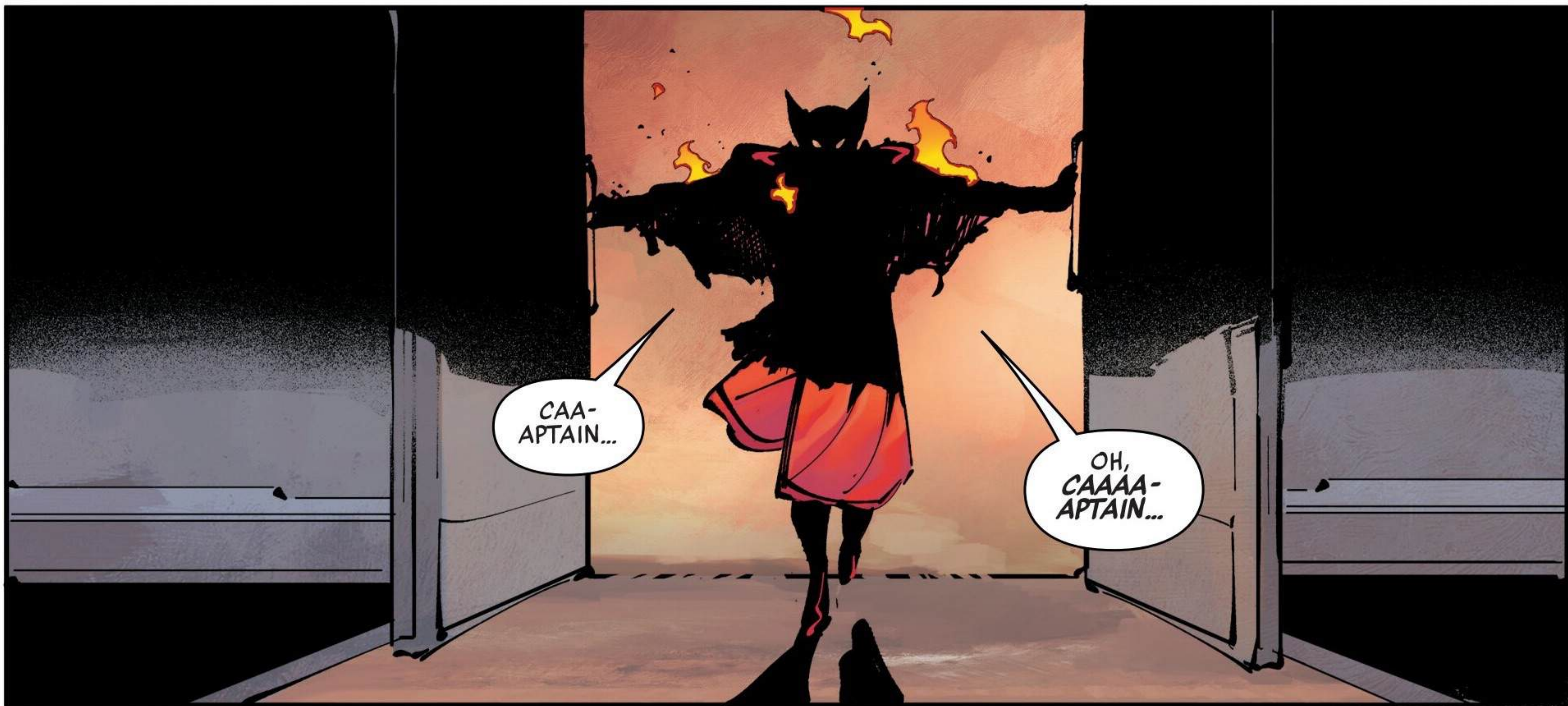
AND AS IT  
TURNS OUT,  
VAMPIRES HATE  
**STICKS.**



SO  
WHAT DO YOU  
SAY?









**УААААА!!!**

ATTENTION,  
EVERYONE!

THIS IS  
YOUR CAPTAIN  
SPEAKING.

BUCKLE  
UP.









IT'S BEEN A  
WHILE SINCE I'VE  
PILOTED A  
HELICARRIER.

HOLD  
ON!

WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING,  
YOU MANIAC?!

BUT THAT'S  
OKAY. IT'S LIKE  
RIDING A BIKE.

A 200,000 TON  
FLYING BIKE.

IT'S A  
ROUGH RIDE.

WHAT IS HE  
THINKING?

IT'S CAPTAIN  
AMERICA--HE  
KNOWS WHAT  
HE'S DOING.

BUT THE SIMPLE  
TRUTH IS THIS:

IF THE VAMPIRES  
HAVE TAKEN THE  
SUNLIGHT FROM US...



...THEN WE JUST  
HAVE TO GO TO  
THE SUNLIGHT.







THIS IS  
CAPTAIN  
AMERICA.

WE HAVE  
SUNLIGHT.



AVENGERS,  
YOU KNOW  
WHAT TO  
DO.



THERE.  
AUTOPILOT  
IS SET.

NOW  
YOU AND  
I...



...CAN CONTINUE OUR  
CONVERSATION.

YOU DO  
REMEMBER THAT  
SUNLIGHT CANNOT  
HURT ME, DO  
YOU NOT?

I DO.

JUST LIKE  
I KNOW THAT  
HURTING YOU  
IS MY JOB.





AH!  
ETERNAL  
NIGHT NO  
LONGER!



GIVE MY  
REGARDS  
TO HELIOS,  
MONSTERS!



YOU GUYS  
WEREN'T **TOTALLY**  
STUPID. YOU  
**PAINTED OVER** THE  
PORTHOLES.



I'VE **GOT**  
SOMETHING  
FOR THAT.

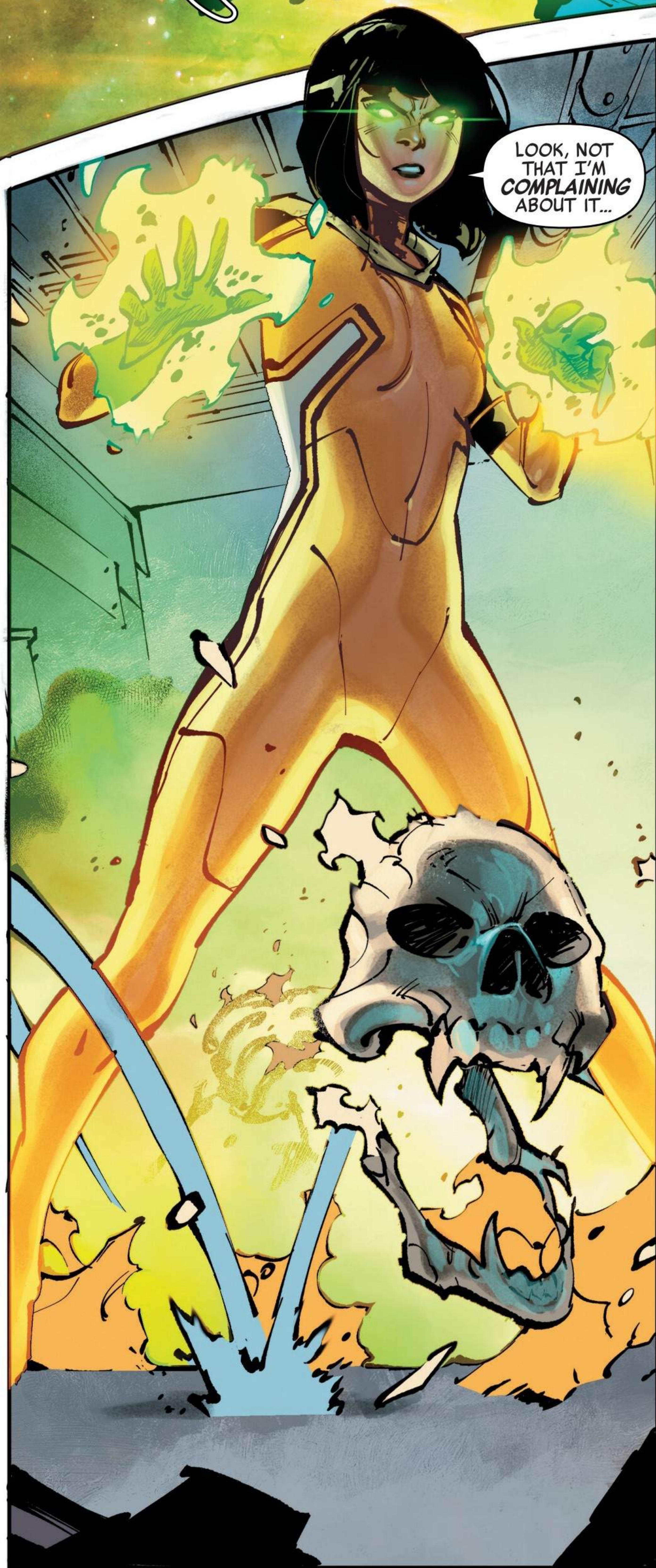
=====



SONIC  
ARROW!

XXXXXXXXXXXX









RAAAAAGHHH!

STEVE?

UNLESS  
YOU ARE TOO  
BUSY--

NEVER  
TOO BUSY FOR  
YOU, PIETRO.



THE  
VAMPIRES ARE  
RETREATING.

IT WOULD  
APPEAR THAT  
THEY HAVE A  
PLAN.

YAIEEEE!

THEN  
INTERFERE WITH  
IT, PIETRO, YOU'RE  
GOOD AT THAT--



WHUFF!

EXCUSE  
ME?





PIETRO--AND  
I SAY THIS WITH  
LOVE--YOU ARE ONE  
OF THE **BIGGEST PAINS**  
IN THE NECK I'VE  
EVER KNOWN.

SO APPLY  
THOSE SKILLS,  
**PLEASE.**

≡SIGH≡  
VERY WELL.

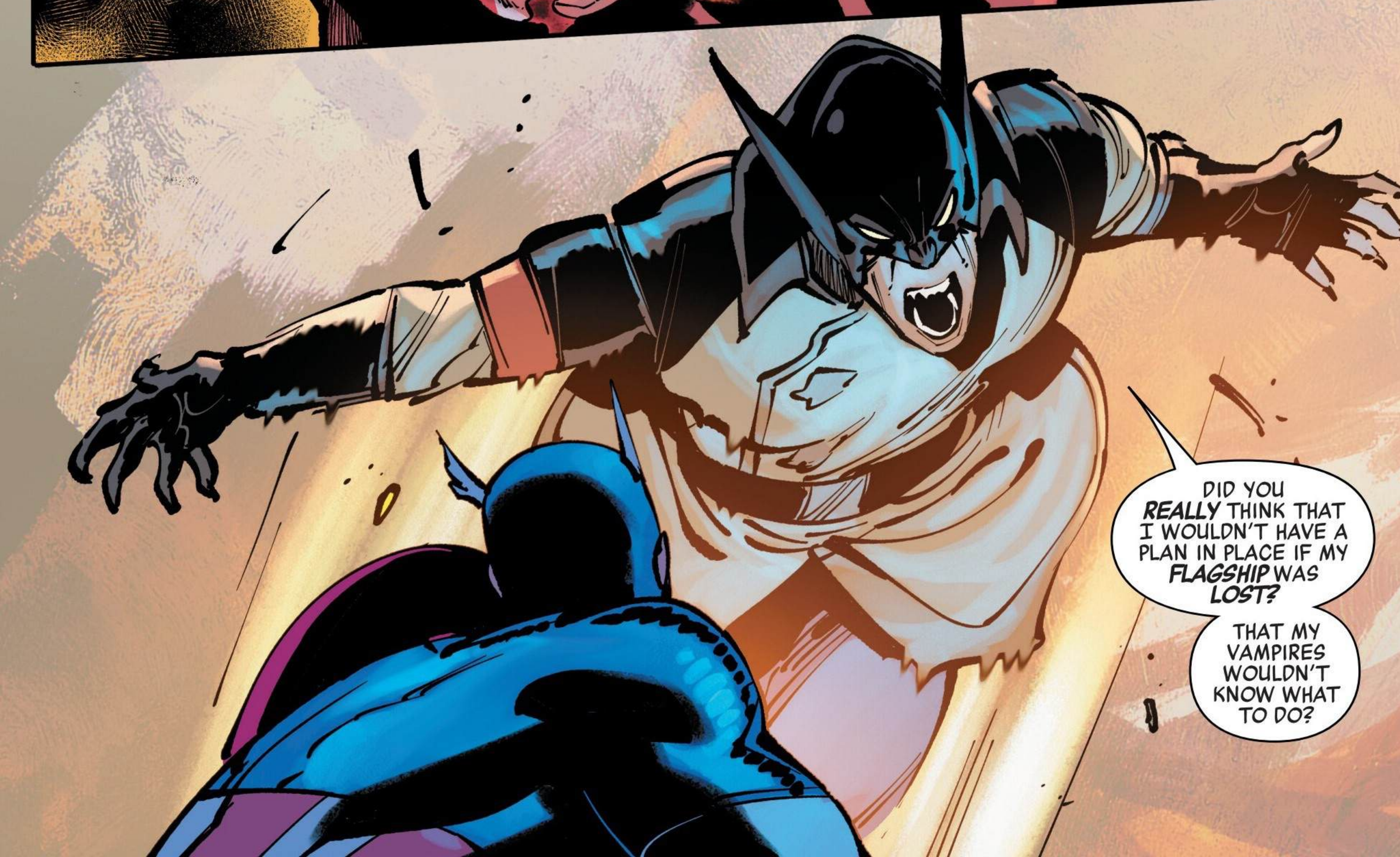
NOW...

...HAVE YOU  
CAUGHT YOUR  
BREATH? DO YOU FEEL  
UP TO BRAGGING ABOUT  
WHATEVER YOUR BOOT  
BOYS ARE UP TO?



OH,  
CAPTAIN.

I'D RUB  
YOUR NOSE IN  
THIS IF IT WAS  
MY VERY LAST  
BREATH.



DID YOU  
**REALLY** THINK THAT  
I WOULDN'T HAVE A  
PLAN IN PLACE IF MY  
**FLAGSHIP** WAS  
LOST?

THAT MY  
VAMPIRES  
WOULDN'T  
KNOW WHAT  
TO DO?

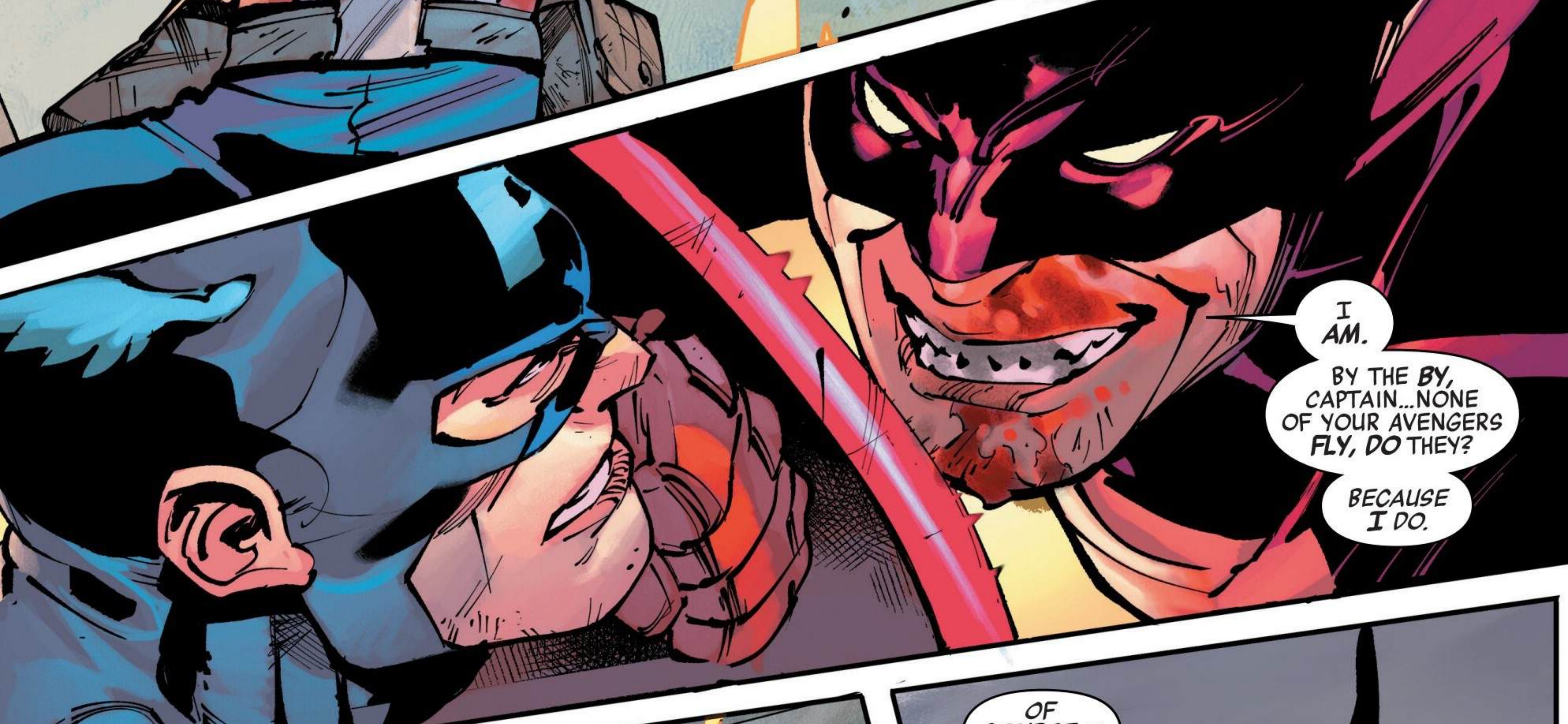




AND WHAT  
IS THE LOSS OF A  
FLAGSHIP...COMPARED  
TO KILLING **CAPTAIN  
AMERICA?**

AND  
A TEAM OF  
**AVENGERS?**

YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
**SCUTTLE**  
THE SHIP.



I  
AM.

BY THE **BY**,  
CAPTAIN...NONE  
OF YOUR AVENGERS  
FLY, DO THEY?

BECAUSE  
I DO.



ALONG WITH  
ALL THE PEOPLE  
YOU'VE ABDUCTED?  
ALONG WITH YOUR  
FOLLOWERS?

YOU'D  
SACRIFICE  
YOUR **OWN**  
PEOPLE?



OF  
COURSE I  
WOULD.

NO  
GREAT  
LOSS.

THERE HAS  
NOT, NOR WILL  
THERE **EVER** BE,  
A SHORTAGE OF  
**CREDULOUS**  
FOOLS WAITING  
TO **STEP IN**  
LINE.





YOU GET ALL THAT, PIETRO?

I DID.

I WILL LEAVE YOU TO IT THEN, STEVE. WHILE I GO AND INTERFERE.

HERCULES! HAZMAT!

CONTINUE TO CLEAR THE VAMPIRES, AND KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE CIVILIANS!

HAWKEYE, YOU NEED TO--



--COME WITH YOU.

EXCUSE ME?

DID YOU MEMORIZE HELICARRIER DECK PLANS WHEN YOU WERE 12?

BECAUSE I--

YES, YES, SCIENCE PROJECT, BLUE RIBBON, WE'RE ALL VERY IMPRESSED.

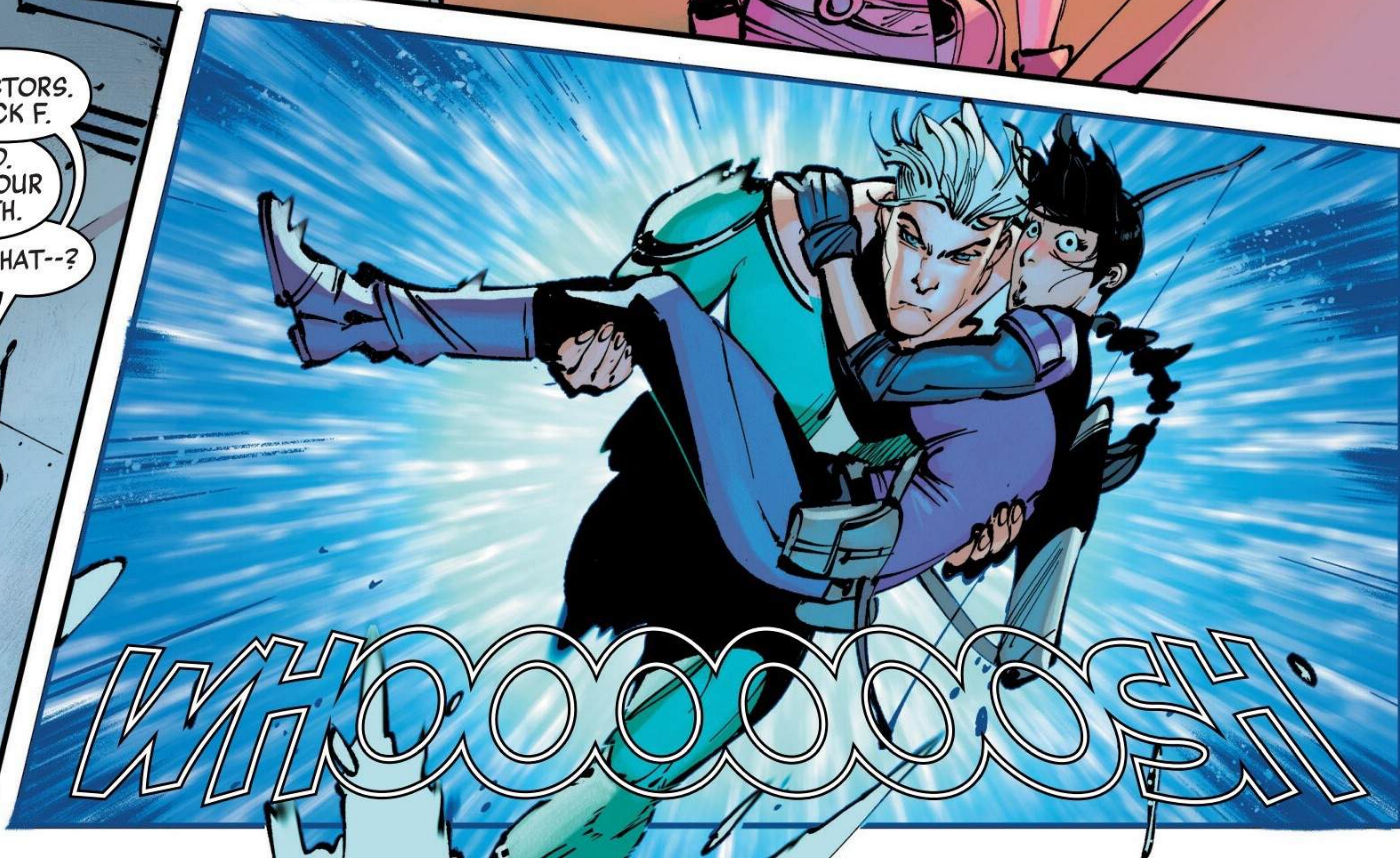


THEN TELL ME: WHERE ARE WE GOING?

REACTORS. DECK F.

GOOD. HOLD YOUR BREATH.

WHAT--?



WHOOOOOSH!





IS THIS  
YOUR *FIRST*  
TIME AS AN  
AVENGER?



YEAH,  
THOUGH I *DID*  
GO TO *AVENGERS*  
ACADEMY.

YOU WERE  
A *GUEST*  
INSTRUCTOR. A  
*NUDE ONE*, IF I  
REMEMBER  
CORRECTLY.  
WHICH I DO.

PERV.



AH.  
MY  
OLYMPIC WRESTLING  
DEMONSTRATION.\*

IN  
RETROSPECT,  
NOT MY MOST *WELL-  
THOUGHT-OUT*  
ESCAPADE.

\*AVENGERS  
ACADEMY #29!



AH,  
WHATEVER.

HEY, CAN  
YOU BELIEVE THAT  
THEY WERE WORRIED  
THAT I'D BECOME A  
*SUPER VILLAIN*?

AND LOOK  
AT THE TWO OF  
US NOW! ME,  
*FULLY CLOTHED*, AND  
YOU, A *BONA FIDE*  
*AVENGER*!

YEAH, STUCK  
ON A *HELICARRIER*  
THAT'S GOING TO  
*BLOW UP*.



HA HA!  
YES!





...FASTEST WAY TO SHUT DOWN A HELICARRIER IS AN EMERGENCY **REACTOR DUMP**. WE'VE GOT TO GET **IN THERE**.

YOU LEARNED ALL OF THIS FROM A **SCIENCE PROJECT**?

I'M VERY THOROUGH.

I SUPPOSE IT'S NICE THAT **ONE HAWKEYE** IS.



WE NEED TO GET THROUGH THIS **BLAST DOOR**.

WELL, DID YOUR SCIENCE PROJECT INCLUDE **ACCESS CODES**?

THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS.

PITY.



HEY, MAYBE **YOU** SHOULD COME UP WITH A PLAN THEN, PAL!

I HAVE A PLAN.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

FOR YOU TO ASK.

WAITING IS NOT MY FORTE...EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF **SATISFACTION**.



WOW. CAN'T **IMAGINE** WHY THEY DIDN'T CALL YOU FOR THE **FIRST-STRING AVENGERS**.

HUSH.

HELLO, THE REACTOR CHAMBER!

BZZZZZZZ





"MY NAME IS  
PIETRO  
MAXIMOFF.

"YOU MAY KNOW  
ME BETTER AS  
**QUICKSILVER**.

"SPEECHES--  
LIKE **WAITING**--  
ARE NOT MY  
FORTE.

"SO PLEASE  
CONSIDER THIS  
A **THREAT**.

"THE AVENGERS HAVE  
**TAKEN** YOUR SHIP. MY  
COLLEAGUES ARE, AS  
WE SPEAK, ANNIHILATING  
ANY OF YOUR NUMBER  
THEY COME ACROSS.

"AND OUR **CAPTAIN  
AMERICA** IS FIGHTING  
YOUR **BARON BLOOD**.

"I ASSUME YOU  
DON'T NEED ME  
TO TELL YOU WHAT  
**THAT** MEANS.

"WE'RE TALKING  
ABOUT **CAPTAIN  
AMERICA**."

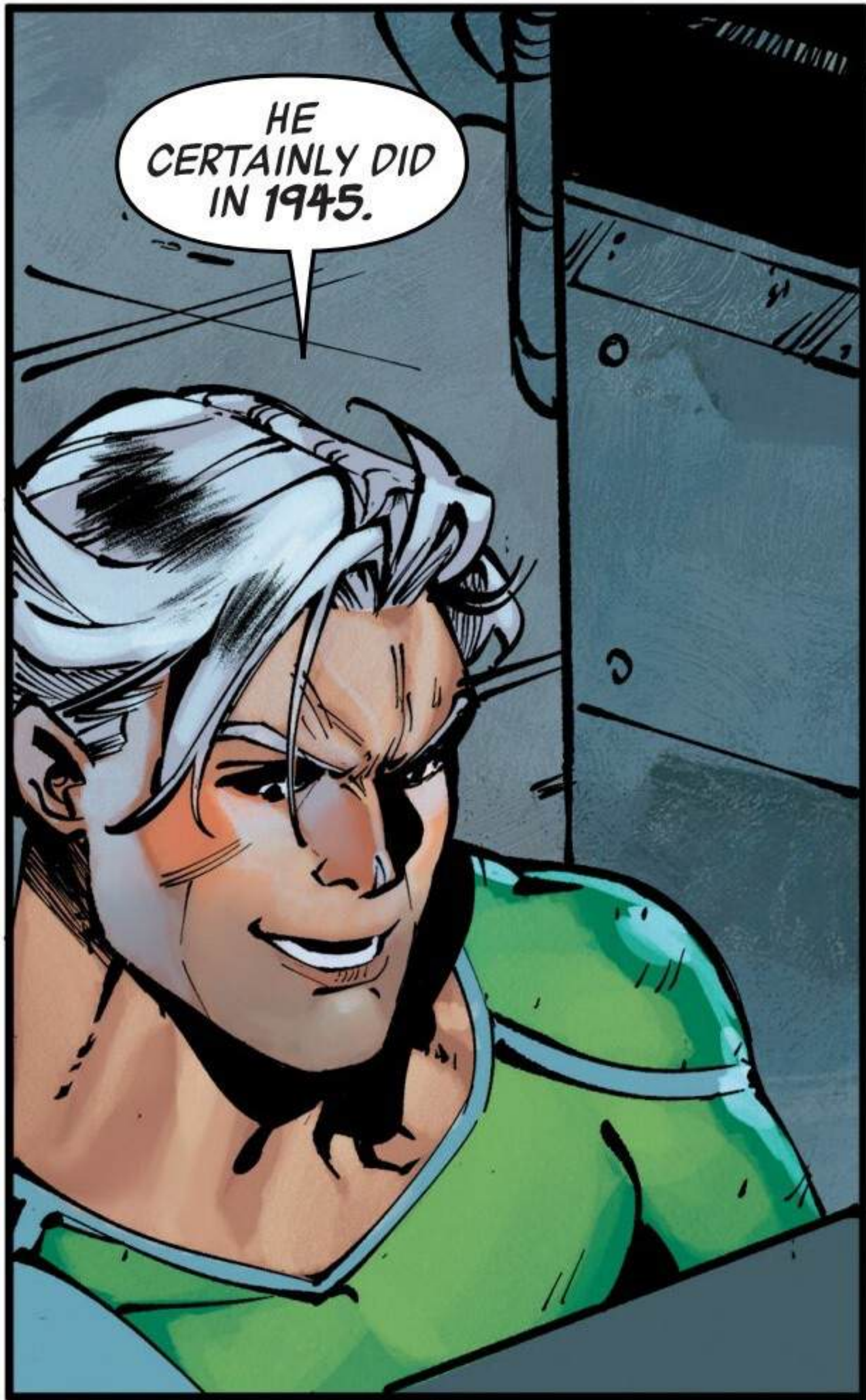




A FIGHT WITH HIM ENDS IN ONE WAY.

HA!

EVEN CAPTAIN AMERICA CAN'T SURVIVE A CRASH FROM THIS ALTITUDE!



HE CERTAINLY DID IN 1945.



WE'LL DIE FOR THE CAUSE, AVENGER, AND TAKE YOU WITH US!

WE'LL BE REMEMBERED AS HONORED MARTYRS-- BARON BLOOD WILL RECITE OUR NAMES ON THE LIST OF HEROES.



IN THAT CASE, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO THIS.

IDENTICARD, PLAYBACK.

"YOU'D SACRIFICE YOUR OWN PEOPLE?"



"OF COURSE I WOULD.

"NO GREAT LOSS.

"THERE HAS NOT, NOR WILL THERE EVER BE, A SHORTAGE OF CREDULOUS FOOLS WAITING TO STEP IN LINE."









YOU--

YOU SAID YOU'D LET US LIVE!

YOU GAVE YOUR WORD!



YOU ALL STOPPED *LIVING* THE MOMENT YOU BECAME VAMPIRES.

AND AS FOR BREAKING MY *WORD*...

...WELL, I SUPPOSE I'VE LIVED WITH *WORSE*.

YOU SEE, I AM VERY ANGRY ABOUT MY *SISTER*.



--STILL HAVE  
NO IDEA WHERE  
WE'RE GOING!

WELL, WE'VE  
RUN OUT OF  
VAMPIRES TO SLAY,  
AND I CERTAINLY  
DON'T FEEL LIKE SITTING  
STILL WHEN THERE'S  
HEROISM TO  
BE DONE.

I SAID I  
AGREED! BUT  
WE'RE NOT GOING  
TO HELP CAPTAIN  
AMERICA IF WE  
CAN'T FIND  
HIM--

AH  
HA.

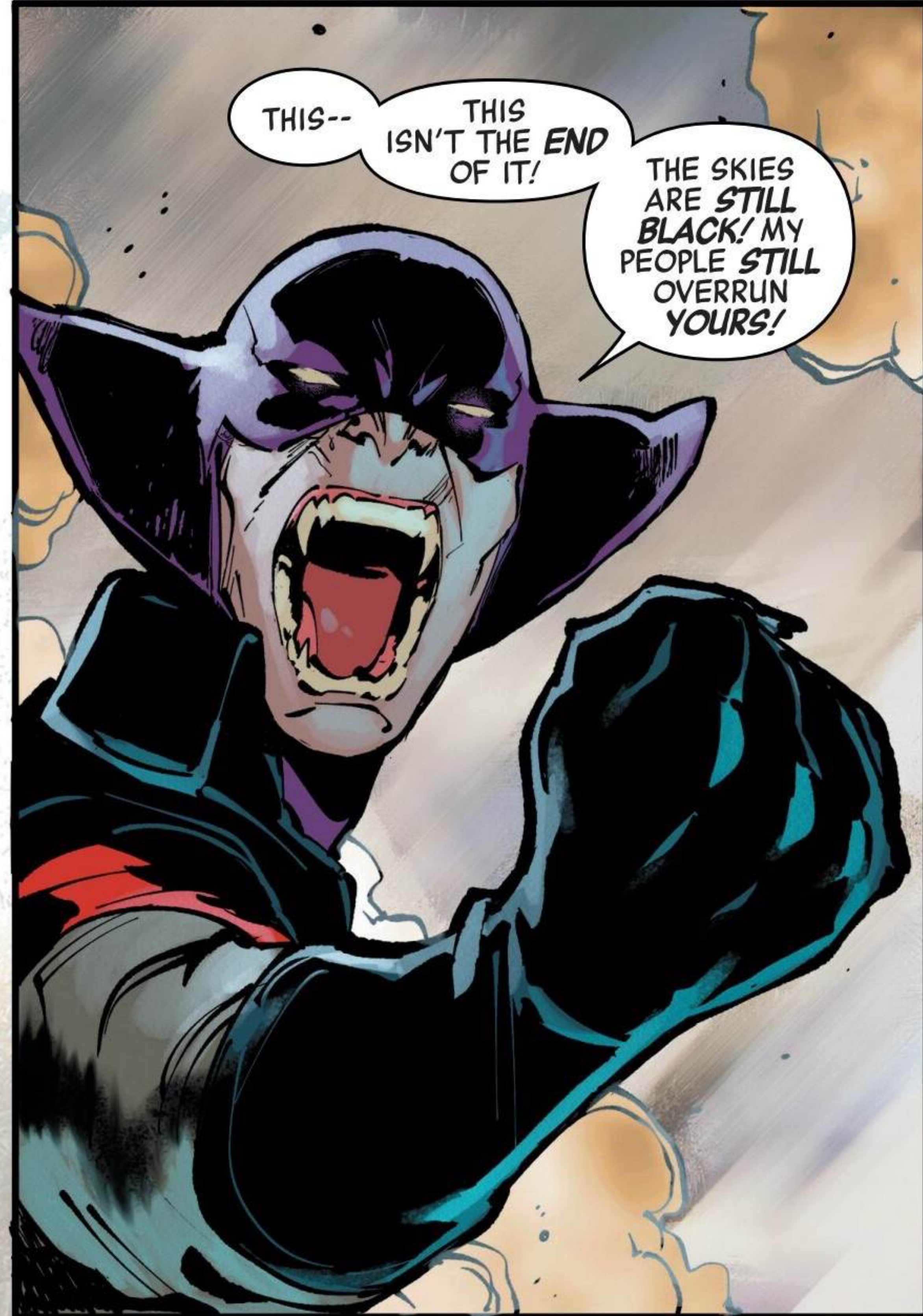
OH  
HO.

LOOKS  
LIKE THIS TUB  
IS STILL FLYING,  
BARON.

MERELY  
FOR THE  
PRESENT,  
CAPTAIN!

YOU  
SUUUUUURE  
ABOUT  
THAT?







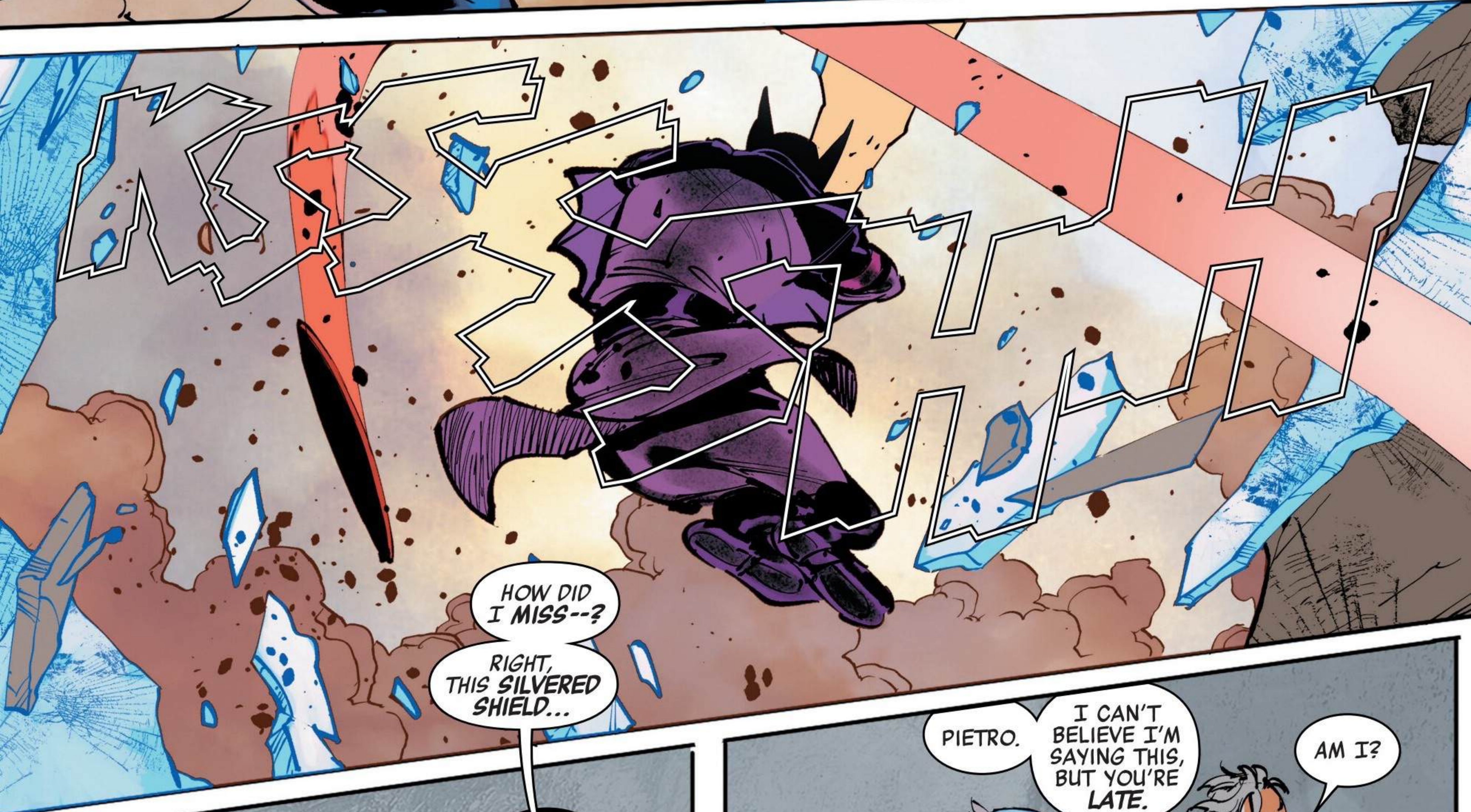


IT'S NEVER OVER, CAPTAIN!

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT-- WE'VE BEEN DOING THIS DANCE SINCE 1942!

I'LL SEE YOU DEAD YET!

NOT SO FAST--



HOW DID I MISS--?

RIGHT, THIS SILVERED SHIELD...



DAMN IT!



PIETRO.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS, BUT YOU'RE LATE.

AM I?

HE GOT AWAY.

A SHAME.



"THOUGH...HOW FORTUNATE IT IS THAT I WAS TAUGHT HOW TO BE AN AVENGER BY THE GREAT *CAPTAIN AMERICA* WHEN I WAS JUST A *YOUNG EX-SUPER VILLAIN*.

"TAUGHT SUCH LESSONS FROM THIS LEGEND OF WORLD WAR II AS *ALWAYS HAVE A BACKUP PLAN*.

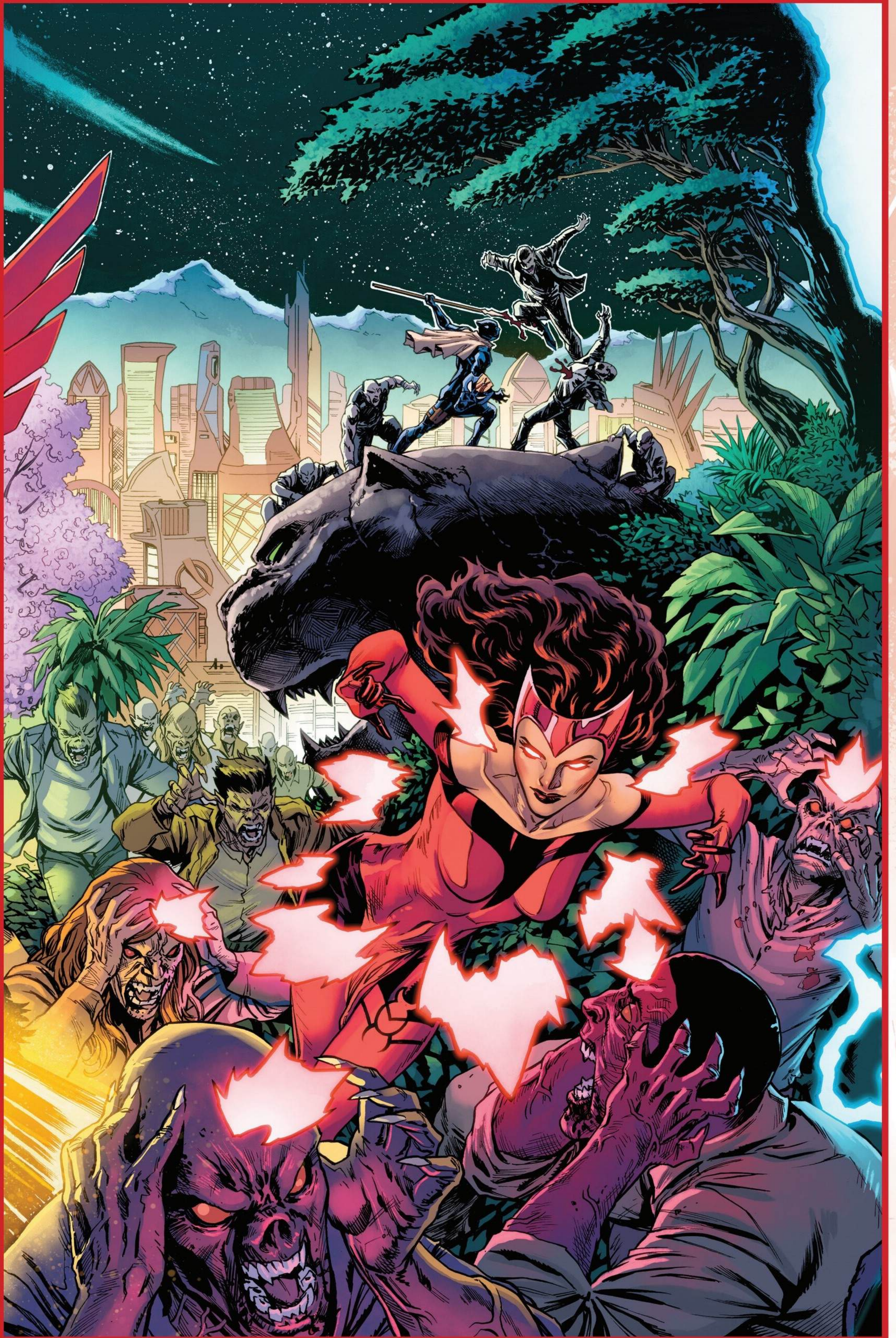
"AND HAVING TAKEN SUCH LESSONS TO HEART...



"...HOW FORTUNATE THAT I BELIEVE SO DEEPLY IN PASSING ON WHAT I'VE LEARNED TO THE *NEXT GENERATION*."







**AVENGERS #12 FORESHADOW VARIANT BY  
CORY SMITH & RACHELLE ROSENBERG**





**AVENGERS #12** STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY  
**LUCAS WERNECK**



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# THE AVENGERS











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**AVENGERS #15** BIG MARVEL  
VARIANT BY **SKOTTIE YOUNG**



**AVENGERS #15** BIG MARVEL BLACK &  
WHITE VARIANT BY **SKOTTIE YOUNG**



**AVENGERS #16** DEADPOOL KILLS  
THE MARVEL UNIVERSE VARIANT BY  
**CHAD HARDIN & ISRAEL SILVA**



**AVENGERS #16**  
STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY  
**MARTÍN CÓCCOLO & JESUS ABURTOV**







## AVENGERS #13 AFTERWORD BY TOM BREVOORT

And so, at last, we come to the final page.

I first encountered the Avengers in the pages of a copy of SON OF ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS borrowed from my local library. I had been looking for ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS with the first issue of FANTASTIC FOUR reprinted in it, but that volume had been checked out and was unavailable. But a few panels in AVENGERS #1 featuring the FF were enough to get me to take a chance on that volume.

In the aftermath of reading SON OF ORIGINS, I started to seek out the latest stories of many of the characters showcased in that volume. UNCANNY X-MEN, DAREDEVIL...and AVENGERS. The first issue of AVENGERS that I ever bought was #168, written by Jim Shooter and illustrated by George Pérez. It guest-starred the Guardians of the Galaxy from the 30th century as well as Nighthawk of the Defenders for some reason. And I was hopelessly confused by it, enough so that it took another month or two before I tried to pick the series up again.

So I was perhaps an unlikely choice to be selected to edit AVENGERS when the series came back to Marvel Editorial proper after

spending a year away as part of the HEROES REBORN initiative. While I liked the book just fine and had read it steadily on and off for years, I wouldn't have described myself as being especially an AVENGERS fan. What I was, though, was a George Pérez fan. Turns out, he was a fan of mine as well.

George was tapped to illustrate the series, a return for him as well as AVENGERS was the first title on which he made his bones as a fan-favorite back in the 1970s. Feeling out-of-date on the current continuity of the Marvel Universe, George asked for Kurt Busiek, with whom I had worked with on THUNDERBOLTS and UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN, to write the series. I was going to be editing Kurt's tenure on IRON MAN, but he and George felt that my working knowledge of continuity would be a benefit to them on AVENGERS and petitioned Editor in Chief Bob Harras to give me the assignment. Which he did, shifting IRON MAN over to Bobbie Chase instead.

That was 26 years ago. I have been editing AVENGERS ever since.

I've long since surpassed the prior longest tenure as editor of AVENGERS. In fact, I've more than doubled it, possibly even tripled it. In fact, my time editing AVENGERS is the second-longest editorial stint in Marvel history. It's only surpassed by Stan Lee's time editing MILLIE THE MODEL from 1945–1973.

And even there, Stan put out way fewer issues of MILLIE than I have of AVENGERS, to say nothing of all the book's spin-offs such as MIGHTY, SECRET, UNCANNY, INITIATIVE, SAVAGE, etc.

I am consequently strongly associated with Earth's Mightiest Heroes. During my many years in the editorial chair, I got to watch the series take comicdom by storm, not just once but on multiple occasions. I also had the pleasure of seeing the property move into animation and live-action film success—to the point where practically every English-speaking person on the planet now recognizes the name Avengers and knows what it is.

There are now people on staff at Marvel who had not yet been born when I began editing AVENGERS.





Tom's first issue: *Avengers* (1998) #1.



But nothing can go on forever. One of the truisms that I try to instill into Marvel's younger editors is the idea that somebody gets to edit any classic series before you, and somebody gets to edit it after you are finished. While an important part of the process, you are also one temporary link in an editorial chain that stretches all the way back to 1963 and the very first issue of the magazine.

So my time here is now over, and a new editorial team will be taking the reins beginning next month. As my successor is Wil Moss, who has helmed such series as *INCREDIBLE HULK*, *IMMORTAL THOR*, *UNBEATABLE SQUIRREL GIRL* and the revived *ULTIMATE* line, I don't have any worries, and I don't think you need to either. It'll be strange to see somebody else making the calls for Earth's Mightiest Heroes, but no stranger, really, than when I was simply a reader all those years ago.

It would be impossible to thank everybody who worked alongside me on this book over the years to make it the success that it's been. But I need to call out two creators in particular, the aforementioned George Pérez and Carlos Pacheco, both of whom are sadly no longer with us. George and Carlos were each a major part of my first year editing *AVENGERS*, and they were instrumental in my success.

I also want to call out all of the younger editors who operated as my associate and assistant editors on the series over the years. And please forgive me if I accidentally leave somebody out—there are an absolute ton of you. But that list would include Gregg Schigiel, Frank Dunkerley, Marc Sumerak, Jeff Youngquist, Andy Schmidt, Nicole Boose, Molly Lazer, Stephanie Moore, Aubrey Sitterson, Jeanine Schaefer, Lauren Sankovitch, Jake Thomas, Alanna Smith, Wil Moss, Shannon Andrews Ballesteros and, of course, Annalise Bissa and

Tom's last issue: *Avengers* (2023) #13.



Martin Biro. Your hard work always made me look good, better than I was in a lot of instances.

And, heck, I find that I just can't step away without giving a final salute to Kurt Busiek, Alan Davis, Jerry Ordway, Stuart Immonen, Tom Smith, Kieron Dwyer, Richard Starkings, John Roshell, Geoff Johns, Olivier Coipel, Ivan Reis, Scott Kolins, Joe Casey, Chuck Austen, Chris Sotomayor, Brian Michael Bendis, David Finch, Steve McNiven, Mike Deodato Jr., Mark Millar, Leinil Francis Yu, Jim Cheung, Allan Heinberg, Howard Chaykin, Alex Maleev, Billy Tan, Bryan Hitch, John Romita Jr., Frank Cho, Mark Bagley, Kelly Sue DeConnick, Stefano Caselli, Dan Slott, Frank D'Armata, Justin Ponsor, Christos Gage, Steve Uy, Daniel Acuña, Walter Simonson, Ed Brubaker, Warren Ellis, Rick Remender, Matteo Scalera, Brandon Peterson, Matt Fraction, Jason Aaron, Adam Kubert, Jonathan Hickman, Jerome Opeña, Steve Epting, Roger Stern, Mark Waid, Mahmud Asrar, Mike del Mundo, Jim Zub, Al Ewing, Greg Land, Pepe Larraz, Kim Jacinto, Paco Medina, Ed McGuinness, Marte Gracia, Javier Garrón, Aaron Kuder, Jed MacKay, C.F. Villa, Ivan Fiorelli, Francesco Mortarino, Derek Landy, Gerry Duggan, Sean Izaakse, Neal Adams, Tom Palmer, Patch Zircher, Chris Eliopoulos and all of his talented VC letterers, Bob Harras, Joe Quesada, Axel Alonso, C.B. Cebulski, and the list could go on and on. Hopefully, you guys all had a good time along the way. And that goes double for you readers as well.

As for me, I'll be shifting my activities over to the mutant side of the street. I think it's doubtful that I'll be able to edit *X-MEN* for half as long as I have done *AVENGERS*, but it'll be a lot of fun trying. Hope to see you there.

Tom B  
Once an Avenger,  
Always an Avenger  
2/22/24



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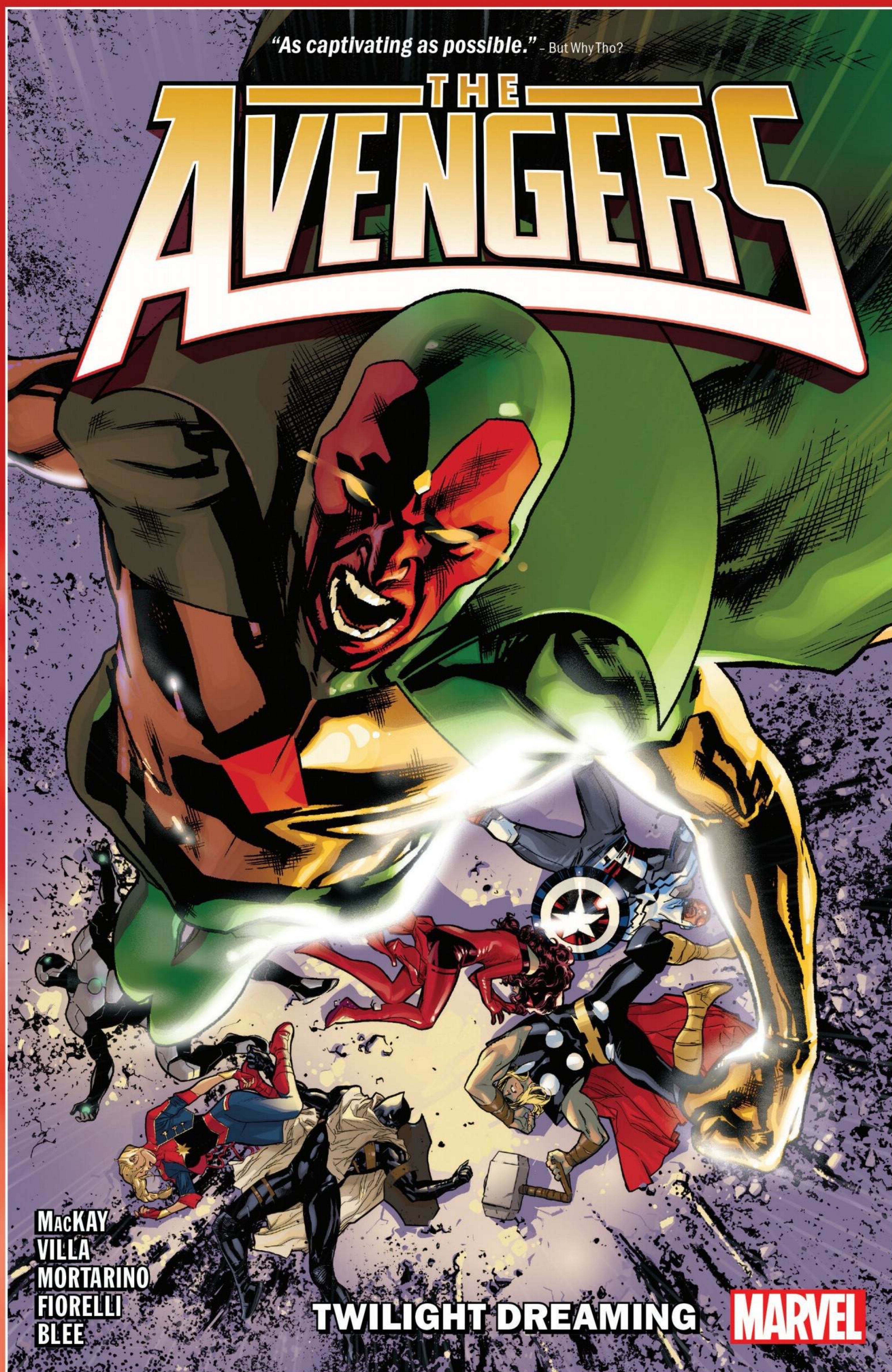
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# ***THE AVENGERS FIGHT BACK,*** **FROM THE *FALL OF THE HOUSE OF X* TO *BLOOD HUNT*!**

**THE AVENGERS HAVE HUNG IN SPACE OVER EARTH**, a sword of Damocles over mutantkind’s enemy Orchis, for too long. But knowing they had only one chance to strike, they waited while Iron Man prepared. Now, on his signal, it is time — and the Avengers only know one way to strike: hard! But as the true extent of Orchis’ Stark Sentinel program is revealed, will Earth’s Mightiest Heroes fall against the metal onslaught? Then, with the Avengers under siege as vampires sink their teeth into the Marvel Universe, Steve Rogers must assemble a new roster to join the Blood Hunt! Quicksilver, Hawkeye, Hercules and Hazmat answer the call — but when they encounter an organized army of vampires in uniform led by a surprise villain, it gets personal!



COLLECTING **AVENGERS (2023) #12-16** — BY JED MACKAY,  
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